

Persecution of the Jews in the East.

Translation of a Hebrew Letter written by Abulafia, father of the individual who is reported by M. Pieritz to have embraced Mahomedanism whilst under torture. Concerning the calumnies at Damascus, a plot was hatched, and they agreed to send away a priest who belonged to the French quarter, in order to accuse us of having murdered him. They alleged—1st, That the priest entered the Jew's street the day he was missing (the street was a thoroughfare), and was not seen to leave it. The Jews answered, that he left the street certainly on the other side—but this would not satisfy them. The Jews assembled in synagogue, and decreed, under pain of excommunication, that any one who knew of, or had seen the priest, should declare it. A Jew, who feared God, answered directly, that he was a dealer in tobacco, and lived in the suburbs of the city, one hour's distance from the Jews' quarters, and near to dusk he saw the priest and his servant leaving the city, passing near him towards the fields; and he said to the servant of the priest, "Come here and buy some tobacco, as you usually do."

to Mohammed Ali, who decreed that no Christian should henceforth molest a Jew. But the truth is, the Pacha here of Damascus is an enemy of the Jews, otherwise he would not have answered thus when called on for protection; for all the Christians are considered by him as dogs, but he sets them on; and they depend on him, and do as they think fit in this matter. Such is their enmity, that one night they made a Christian strong man drink wine, and armed him and sent him to the Jews' quarter. He went into one courtyard quite furious, with a drawn sword in his hand, and said, "I come to kill many Jews, who are all brashemera and villains." The Jews cried bitterly for help. The guards who patrolled the city heard it, and the cry of murder; they were going to seize him, but he said I saw this Christian assaulting you; it is not my fault, the French Consul, the associate of the Governor of the city, sent me. They then sent him away free, and the intention of this trouble of Israel, this Consul Beauvain, through whose means all this affair was brought about, is, that the Jews should kill this Christian, and be accused of another crime. After this the Christians went to an old cemetery, which belonged to the Jews since A. M. 5408, and violated the graves, and strewed about the bones, and took one of their corpses there and buried it. The Jews bitterly complained of this, but received no redress. They went away with anguish of soul. But still the Pacha is inciting the accused to sign a confession in what they had admitted under torture, for he tells them he is certain they killed the friar. But they all answer, "All that which we have spoken and confessed was in consequence of the blows and tortures, and far be it from us to commit murder." And they asked my son, (who is considered as a Mahomedan, which God forbid) "What do you say respecting this matter?—You have already admitted you killed him." He answered and said, "We Jews neither have murdered, nor do we murder any one, and blood is an abomination and horror to us, and all we have confessed was only to escape torture." The Pacha answered, "Why do you include yourself among the Jews? You belong to us." My son answered, "I am a Jew, a son of a Jew, and all that I have said has been for fear and dread of the cruel treatments you inflicted on me; and I entreated of you to kill me, to be released from your hands; and through pain have the evil words come from my mouth." And of the Hama, the chief Rabbi of the city, he requested him to sign the confession, saying, "You surely killed him." (Here follows the answer of the Rabbi, refusing to confess to a falsehood, which was published in the extracts which appeared in The Sun.) The Pacha then said, "At least sign to this, that by your law the property of the Gentiles is allowed to you." The Rabbi answered, "It is false." The Pacha answered, "In the Talmud (as I am informed) it is said from Habakkuk, 'He saw and spoiled the nations.'" The Rabbi said, "This verse refers to the heathen idolaters, and the despoiling the Gentile is a heinous crime." They then were taken back to prison, till the order of the Pacha arrives, as to where and before whom they are to be tried. But those who are still alive are mutilated, as they suffered tortures of a horrible nature, and they were so injured, that they were all like the dead, from the excruciating anguish. O thou jealous and avenging God, pour out thy wrath on those evil doers. Now we have heard the Consul-General of France in Alexandria has sent his vice-consul to Damascus, at the request of his Government, to investigate this matter; but they have written from thence that this man is also an enemy of the Jews, and they fear that he will incline to the evil practices of the French consul, and to the leaders of the Christians in Damascus; and they write thence (Alexandria) that Mohammed Ali had already advised that all the confessions of the Jews, and that all that has been written against them till this day, are void, and investigation is to be renewed without any torture whatever. And we also hear that the English Consul there has received an order from his Government that he should go himself to Damascus to try this matter; and they wrote also that nearly all the consuls are friends of the Jews, except the French, who is still an enemy; and the advice of many of the heads here is, that I should myself go to Paris to demand that the case should be tried by them, and to demand that reparation for the blood of the murdered men that have been tortured, and for those that they have smitten, men and women, and for those that they have despoiled. But why I am feeble and aged, and I wish to know the issue of the proceedings of those persons who are to investigate, and then I shall know how to proceed. My heart bleeds for this trouble, and I am old; and all the great of the city (Constantinople) leave their property and home for the deliverance of Israel. In the affair of Rhodes they do their best, with the help of God, and with the assistance of the powers of Israel, and the help of Messrs. Rothschilds, judgment has been pronounced, in truth, in the Turkish courts here; and it is proved that it is all false and a calumny. And now the Jews demand justice on their murderers and despoilers for those that died under torture, and for the women that they still cited, and 150,000 piastres damages they suffered in the affair; and now they are trying to discover who is to remunerate them—whether the French Consul, who is stated to have been the chief instigator, or the Pacha of Rhodes, who decreed all the evil. At all events, we trust that both will be displaced, in order that the Jews shall have peace, for they are all a holy congregation fearing God. A letter has been received from the estimable assembly of London. (God preserve it.) in answer to the appeal made by us, and they write us, that they will, with all their might and main, assist their

brethren; and they have applied to the Government, and no doubt thereupon it proceeds that the English Consul goes to Damascus to try this matter, and through him the Consul of Rhodes will be displaced, so that the wicked may cease from troubling, and not afflict any more. But I am now going to Alexandria to see the end of this affair, and to assist my son. Look down and behold if there are any wounds like our wounds, ye chief men among the mighty in the help of God, and may the Lord fight for you, and return this trouble to our enemies; and may fear and dread pursue those who rise up against us. H. M. ABULAFIA. Constantinople, 17 Sivan. (19th June) 5600. To Mr. H. Lehren, Amsterdam. *Sacred garments. †The original text has here been departed from, since the details were unfit for publication.

THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, September 19, 1840.

ELECTORAL TICKET.

- JAMES CLARKE, of Indiana, } Senatorial. Geo. G. LEIFER, of Delaware, }
1. Col. John Thompson. 12. Frederick Smith.
2. Benjamin Miffin, } 13. Charles McClure.
Frederick Stoeber, } 14. J. M. Gonnell.
3. Wm. H. Smith. } 15. G. M. Hollenback.
4. John F. Steinman, } 16. Leonard Pfoutz.
John Dowlin, } 17. John Horton, Jr.
Henry Myers. } 18. William Philon.
5. Daniel Jacoby. } 19. John Morrison.
6. Jesse Johnson. } 20. Westly Frost.
7. Jacob Ayle. } 21. Benj. Anderson.
8. Geo. Christian. } 22. William Wilkins.
9. Wm. Shisler. } 23. A. K. Wright.
10. Henry Debuff. } 24. John Findley.
11. Henry Logan. } 25. Stephen Barlow.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

- HON. J. C. BUCHER, }
OVID F. JOHNSON, }
JAMES PEAROCK, } Dauphin.
BENJAMIN PARRE, }
JOHN M. FORSTER, }
E. W. HUTTEN, }
MICHAEL BURKE, }
JACOB BAAB, }
HERMAN ABRICKS, }
PETER HAY, } Philadelphia.
JOSEPH C. NEAL, }
DAVID LYN H, }
H. H. VAN AMRINGE, } Pittsburg.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

- FOR PRESIDENT,
Martin Van Buren.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
Richard M. Johnson.
FOR GOVERNOR,
Gen. David R. Porter.
FOR CONGRESS,
JOHN SNYDER.
FOR ASSEMBLY,
CHARLES W. HEGINS,
(Who had 14 votes in the Democratic Delegation.)
JESSE C. HORTON,
(Who had 13 votes in the Delegation.)
FOR COMMISSIONERS,
WILLIAM SHANNON,
JACOB RHODES.
FOR AUDITOR,
HUGH H. TEATS.
WHIG CANDIDATES.
FOR CONGRESS,
JAMES MERRILL.
COMMISSIONER,
JOSEPH BOUND.
AUDITOR,
ELIDA JOHN.

Persons having prospectuses will please to send on the names of subscribers as soon as possible. We may possibly have omitted sending the paper to some who have subscribed, which we shall be glad to correct when informed.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE. With Divine permission there will be a protracted meeting held by the Presbyterian Congregation—worshipping in the Brick Church in Northumberland. Services to commence on Saturday morning the 19th inst. at 11 o'clock. The Rev. W. T. Sproule and others may be expected.

The SENECA GRAYS, under the command of Captain William L. Dewart, were out on parade on Saturday last. They made a fine appearance, and marched exceedingly well. We trust Capt. Dewart will be enabled to increase the number of its members, which we believe is all that is wanting to make it one of the finest companies in the neighborhood.

Charles Naylor, the competitor of C. J. Ingersoll, has declined being a candidate for Congress in Philadelphia. The Whigs have taken up Morton McMichael, a professed democrat (at a practical whig, in the place of Mr. Naylor. Mr. Naylor, while in congress, seldom done any thing else but sound his own praises, which even his whig friends became tired of hearing.

Schuylkill County.

The democratic party of this county have nominated John Weaver of Pottsville, to represent them in the Legislature. Mr. Weaver was born, and lived many years in this place. He is a sound democrat, and will make an honest and faithful representative.

Wonderful Discovery!!!

The editors of the Sunbury Gazette have actually discovered a man's nest, a full description of which they have given in their last paper under the head of "Donnell and Dewart opposed to the Shamokin coal region."—The good people of this place were actually dumbfounded at this wonderful discovery. They gazed with silent astonishment at the article in question, and wondered whether the brain of one man was sufficient to give birth to an idea so original.

And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew. That one small head should carry all he knew. They could not believe so sublime a conception could have emanated from the cranium of a plain and unpretending democrat. No! no! it must have been some whig whose mind has been accustomed to wander in the airy regions of fancy, who draws upon his imagination for facts and "gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name." We should like to have a phrenological examination of the author's head. The organs of constructiveness and marvellousness must be prodigious, and most powerful in their operations—nothing short of a skull of most extraordinary strength and thickness could restrain and keep them in their proper places. We should not be surprised to see it recorded in the next chapter of accidents in the Sunbury Gazette that the vigorous and active brain of the author had "burst its coverings," and that a jury of inquiry had, accordingly, returned a verdict of "death by precocity of intellect."

Waking up the Wrong Passenger!

A few days since as Jesse C. Horton and one of his friends were driving through Augusta township, they halted before the house of Mr. M—a democratic farmer. Mr. M. and his wife were in the garden at the time, when Jesse introduced himself in the following manner: "Jesse—Hallo, here! I've come to see whether you are all for Hegin, or whether some of you aint a going for Horton. Mr. M.—I am going for Hegin, myself; how my wife will go, I cant say, signifying by a nod towards her, that he might put the question to her. Jesse—Then you go for the big pay do you? Mr. M.—I don't know exactly what you mean, unless you are alluding to the big pay of several thousand dollars that Horton took from the government as extra pay for carrying the mail, which was over and above what he was entitled to, and for which he rendered the government no services. This, I think, is rather "big pay."

Jesse—Oh, but you don't understand me, that has nothing to do with Horton's election now. Mr. M.—Yes, I think it has, besides Horton and a company of his friends have now a large contract on the canal, as every body knows, and they want to send him to the legislature so that he can vote to pay himself and his friends a good many thousand dollars, which they expect to make out of their contract. I don't think any contractor, who is making all the money he can off the state, should be sent to the legislature to help to plunder the treasury. Jesse—But why do you support Hegin? Mr. M.—Because I know Mr. Hegin well, and know him to be a good democrat, while Horton, they say, is opposed by nearly all the leading democrats on his own side of the river, excepting a few who are interested with him in his contract.

Jesse—[Aside to his friend.]—I begin to believe what my friend Dieffenbacher of the "Milton Ledger" told the Sunbury folks at the county delegation, that the people on this side of the river had no intelligence, but were a set of stupid fellows, and, with a crack of the whip he bid good morning to Mr. M. and set off to find some one more pliable. Mr. M. did not know his visitor at the time, whom he saw a few days after in town, when he was pointed out to him as the identical Jesse C. Horton. Jesse will find that the people of Augusta and the adjoining townships are not so ignorant as his friends would make them out to be, and that they have at all events too much good sense to be humbugged by such stories as he and some of his friends have been circulating against Charles W. Hegin.

We have heard it whispered, that there will be an effort made this winter, to have the seat of Justice removed from Sunbury to Northumberland. Should this plan succeed, it will be much more convenient for the citizens of the forks to attend Court. The Columbia county removal question will also be up again. Put that and that together, and Horton and Daniel Snyder will make a mighty fit of the matter. We copy the above extract from the Miltonian. Horton and his friends have, no doubt, been making great promises what they would do if he was elected. In the next edition of the Sunbury Gazette we will, no doubt, see it announced that as soon as Jesse C. Horton is elected out railroad will be torn up and a new track laid to Northumberland, upon which the two locomotives will be placed, and our Court-House dragged by main force to that place. But, seriously speaking, the people will hardly be alarmed by the threats or promises of a man who has lost the confidence of his neighbors, and who relies for support upon those where he is least known. Horton's friends held a meeting at Shamokin last Saturday, Mr. Hegin's was there and wished to address the meeting, and show them the Journal; but Jesse's friends would not let him. They waited until he was gone, which was nearly six o'clock, before they organized. There were but 10 or 12 persons out of 30 that would have any thing to do with the meeting: This meeting was to confirm Horton's nomination in Shamokin. Yet they know that Hegin will have more than one hundred of a majority in that township. RESULT OF EXPERIENCE.—The Ledgerman says that, "whistling does keep up the courage sometimes."

SHAMOKIN.

We have been informed that this flourishing town, according to the late census, already numbers about five hundred inhabitants. Three years ago the site of the town was a perfect wilderness. We distinctly recollect, when Coal tow-ship was erected, two or three years since, an objection was raised that it contained but seventeen votes. It will now poll about two hundred votes. The whole number, with a very few exceptions, (not enough form a corporal's guard for Jesse,) will, we are glad to say, go for C. W. Hegin. Notwithstanding the pressure of the times, the town still continues to improve. Two anthracite furnaces are now under way and will be ready for blast early next spring. With an abundance of coal and iron in, under and surrounding the town it must soon become a place of importance.

The Milton Ledger, not being able to say any thing favorable to Jesse C. Horton, thinks the best he can do for him, is to slander Charles W. Hegin. He states in his last paper that Chas. W. Hegin has been slandering the Germans.

Now we tell the Ledger what we were obliged to tell them last week, that they have again uttered a wilful and deliberate falsehood, and that they knew they were doing so when they published the above slander. We regret that we are compelled to use such harsh language, but when men are so utterly regardless of truth and character, we do not see how we can possibly avoid it. Charles W. Hegin is descended from German parents, which is a fact well known here, and will not be denied. How then can any one believe a charge so ridiculous. But we will tell the Germans of this county what the editor of the Milton Ledger has been frequently accused of by those who know him, and which he never could deny, and that is, that he became ashamed of his Dutch name of Dieffenbacher, and now leaves off the "er" and writes it Dieffenbach, which, he thinks, sounds a little more English. The Sunbury Gazette has copied the above slander, knowing it to be such. "Oh, shame, where is thy blush!"

Should a Contractor be a Member?

It is well known that Jesse C. Horton has several heavy contracts on the canal, amounting to upwards of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. It will also be recollected a few years since, there was some difficulty and disturbance in the legislature in consequence of several of the members being engaged in contracts on the canal, and who, as members, sat in the house of representatives to vote money into their own pockets. It created at the time considerable excitement, and a law, we think, was passed the same session, prohibiting any member of the legislature from holding any contracts on the public works, as it was likely to lead to fraud and corruption to suffer them to vote money to pay themselves. How then will Jesse C. Horton manage the matter? Why, he will probably say that he will sell out! Do you believe any such thing? Would he throw away several thousand dollars he expects to make out of the job? No. He will still hold fast to the job, but hold it under the name of some other person. Will the people agree to send to the legislature a speculating contractor who calls himself a farmer, merely because he was able to buy a farm out of the "Extra pay" money he got from the government, and which he never earned; or will they agree to send a better man, who has no other interests to attend to while there than the interest of his constituents.

Horton's Prospects.

From present appearances, we doubt if Jesse C. Horton will be able to carry two townships in the county. His own township, (Point) where he is best known, will give a decided majority against him. A majority of the first, unyielding democrats of that township are opposed to him, and notwithstanding he may endeavor to swell the number by bringing men on his contract, he will come from home with a woful minority.

Judge Montgomery.

This gentleman, who has been struggling for office for the last ten years of his life, and who, through Governor Porter's friends was at last appointed an associate judge for this county, has been the prime mover of the small faction that are determined to force Jesse C. Horton upon the people. This same gentleman warmly applauded, and approved of Gov. Porter's special message, until after he received his commission. Since that period, forgetful of the dignity that should at all times characterize the Judge, he has been pursuing his old trade, in stirring up dissensions in the democratic party. Had it not been for his unwarrantable interference at the county delegation, the democracy of Northumberland county would have united upon some candidate. But so, the Judge must have his man Jesse, and if the delegation would not agree upon him, he would break up the delegation, and form a ticket in the forks to suit himself, without ever inviting, or giving the people on this side the least notice. And now, what does this unassuming, unpretending Judge do? Why he tells the independent democrats of Northumberland county, that as they would not form a ticket at Sunbury to suit him, that he had called a few of his friends together at McEwensville, and had there formed a ticket to suit himself, and that if they do not now come up to the ch-ck, and support his ticket, he will brand them as traitors, federalists and whigs. Will the honest, independent democracy of Northumberland county permit a political judge, a notorious disturber of the democratic party, to get together a few of his friends at one corner of the county, and there nominate a man every way unworthy and unfit for office, and tell the democracy, not only of the forks, but of the whole county, that they must support his man? It was supposed by those who interested themselves in the appointment of Judge Montgomery, that he would have some regard for the "purity of the ermine," when he assumed the duties of that office, and that he would lay aside his former occupation, as inconsistent with the high character which the judiciary should always maintain.

He Can Write.

The village all declared how much he knew, "I was certain he could write, and cipher too." GOLDSMITH. The friends of Jesse C. Horton got up a story a few days since, that the Hegin men had reported that Horton could not write his name. No sooner had Jesse, on Saturday last, made his appearance in town, than his FATHER escorted him up to Mr. B's store. Mr. B. observed him coming, and handed him a pen as he stepped in the door. Jesse seized the little weapon with a death-like grip, as though his political salvation was staked on the result, and in the presence of several witnesses most positively and absolutely wrote his own name, with his own hand, on two different pieces of paper, which his friends have now in possession, and keep as a certificate of his scholarship. Only think of that! Jesse C. Horton can actually write his own name, which is more than some of the kings and noblemen of England could do five or six hundred years ago. Let the Milton Ledger, who says they have all the intelligence on their side of the river, proclaim this additional proof of their intellectual superiority. Let the Sunbury Gazette insert it in large capitals. It will be worth twenty such stories as published in their last paper, stating that Dewart and Donnell are going to destroy the value of their own coal lands in Shamokin. And if this ocular proof of Jesse's fitness to go to the legislature don't convince the people, the Gazette should then call on the Milton Ledger to stigmatize and abuse them as a set of stupid fellows. Tell them that you have at last discovered one grand qualification, one grand reason why they should support Jesse C. Horton; that you have now proof positive, that he can write his own name, and that he is therefore fit to represent the people of Northumberland county in the next legislature. Quod erat demonstrandum.

Martin Van Buren.

We ask of our readers an attentive perusal of an article on our first page, on the character of Martin Van Buren, by N. P. Tallmadge, the present whig Senator from the state of New York. Mr. Tallmadge is among the number, who are now the most bitter in their denunciations against Mr. Van Buren. How can he reconcile his present conduct with the opinions and high regard he once entertained for the man, we must leave for him to decide. It cannot be that he was a stranger to Mr. Van Buren, and did not know the man he was so highly eulogizing, for he distinctly states in the speech alluded to, that

"He is well known to us all. The people of this state are familiar with his name, and with the services he has rendered to his country. His reputation is dear to them, and they will be the last to suffer it to be tarnished by foul aspersions, however high or however low their origin."

In another part of the same speech, he most effectually refutes the foul slander upon Mr. Van Buren, that he was opposed to the last war. Such testimony from such a source, (for Mr. Tallmadge is one of the acknowledged whig leaders of the United States Senate,) is of immense importance, and how fully does he vindicate the character of Mr. Van Buren. In speaking of the difficulties encountered by Governor Tompkins of New York during the last war, he says:

"NO MAN RENDERED HIM MORE EFFICIENT AID THAN MARTIN VAN BUREN. IN LOWER SENATE CHAMBER, HIS LOQUENCE WAS OFTEN HEARD IN FAVOR OF PROVIDING MEANS AND GRANTING SUPPLIES TO CARRY ON THE WAR, AND TO FEED AND CLOTHE OUR HALF-CLAD SOLDIERS; WHILE SOME OF HIS PRESENT PERSECUTORS WERE OPENLY REJOICING AT THE DEFEAT OF OUR ARMS, AND SECRETLY IMPLORING SUCCESS ON THOSE OF THE ENEMY."

Mr. Van Buren, it will be recollected, is a man of humble origin. He has risen to distinction, and the high station he now occupies, by his own efforts, without the aid of family or friends, assisted only by a highly gifted mind, and an uniring industry; and yet, how little have his most violent enemies been able to say derogatory to his high character and standing. How different was the fate of General Harrison! Born of distinguished parents, he had none of those difficulties in early life to encounter. We have nothing to say against his character as a soldier or a citizen. It is sufficient that his principles and the principles of those who will most probably form his cabinet, are not those for which the democratic party have always contended.

Bank Reform.

It is asserted by the opponents of Mr. Hegin, that he was opposed to a reform of the present banking system. We again publish the bank bill which passed the House of Representatives, and for which he voted, to show that the assertion is as false as the many other things which are circulated to injure him. This bill contains just such restrictions as the democratic party desire, and it will be seen was passed by a party vote.

The Nomination.

It is well known that the County Convention, not being able to make a nomination, agreed that each candidate might run on his own merits. Horton got a few of his friends together in the forks, and had himself nominated, contrary to the usage of the party, and now attempts to palm himself off as the regularly nominated candidate. Hegin had the highest vote in the delegation, and might easily have gathered a few of his friends together and had himself nominated, but he preferred to abide by the decision of the convention. Which, we ask, has acted most like a democrat. The one who submits to the decision of the county convention, or the one who gets himself nominated in one corner of the county, without consulting the other part of the county about it?

We invite the attention of our readers to the article signed "Justice" published a few weeks since in the Milton Ledger. It will show most conclusively that Mr. Hegin, whenever the question came up, always voted against the extra pay. He had previously opposed the extra session as expensive and unnecessary, and always endeavored to expedite the business of the legislature. His friends well know that his time at home was worth more than the salary he received.