

Decrease of the Precious Metals.

It is well known that pure metal cannot be obtained, except from the purest ores, without the use of quicksilver; consequently, the quantity of the precious metals is dependent upon the supply of quicksilver, and the price at which it is sold.

The effect of these measures has, it is estimated, reduced the supply of the precious metals in Europe during the last eight years, no less than twenty millions sterling.

Years, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840.
Buttes, 14,800 14,573 10,811 11,062

Internal Improvements.
Mr. Wright, Chairman of the Committee of Internal Navigation and Internal Improvement reported a bill yesterday, to continue the improvements of this Commonwealth &c.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Repairs, French Creek Feeder, Shenango and Conneaut line, etc.

The bill also provides, in case of freshet or casualty, that the Governor is authorized to borrow for one year, at 6 per cent, the sum certified by two engineers, on the credit of the Commonwealth, not to exceed \$615,000.

STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCE.—The Westchester (New York) paper gives a curious account of the separation of man and wife. Mr. Charles F. Miller, eight years since, married a niece of Mr. Wells, and the uncle about two years ago, presented her with his note of hand for \$20,000.

He then took her up gently in his arms in the Court House, carried her out and put her in the wagon; her friends interfered, and he knocked one of them down. Finally they got her away from him.

The Daughter of Col. Burr.
Every one who knows aught of the history of Aaron Burr, must recollect the mysterious death of his only daughter, the wife of the former Governor of South Carolina.

at Matagorda, who made a full confession of a number of piracies in which he had been engaged, and stated that he was one of the crew of the vessel which sailed from Charleston, with Mrs. Alston on board.

Many witnesses were present who can bear testimony to the confession, and we think there no longer exist any doubt on a subject which was long veiled in mystery.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, March 19, 1842.

We publish in this week's paper the proceedings of the great Johnson meeting, recently held at Harrisburg. Col. Johnson stands deservedly high with the people of Pennsylvania.

The Canal.

We have been informed by Mr. Leisenring, the Superintendent of the Susquehanna Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, who is now vigorously engaged in repairing the damages occasioned by the late freshet, that the progress on the work has been such, that the water will this day be let into the canal, between Northumberland and Duncan's Island.

The American Medical Library and Intelligence, by Robley Dunglison, M. D., has been received. This work sustains a high credit among the Medical faculty.

The Tide Water Canal Company, we are informed, have passed a resolution refusing to receive Tide Water notes in payment of tolls on the canal. All that ever gave currency to these bills, was the fact that they were receivable for tolls, and under this impression hundreds of persons have been induced to take them.

The Legislature has passed a law, by which all members of Fire Companies are to be exempt from military duty.

The Milton Ledger is now published by John Parer, Esq. The new editor promises that hereafter the Ledger shall be conducted in a respectable manner.

The Reading Gazette, a talented and well conducted title paper, is about to be enlarged. It deserves success, and this, we presume, is an evidence that its merits are properly appreciated.

Some citizens of Virginia have petitioned Congress to renounce or repudiate Mr. Wise, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Adams for their conduct in withdrawing the House in the resolutions.

The following letter from a correspondent at Paris, to the editor of the United States Gazette, serves to show the state of feeling between the French and the English.

Cultivation of Flowers and Ornamental Trees.

We doubt whether there is a town on the Susquehanna in which flowers and plants are so generally cultivated as in this place. There is scarcely a dwelling, however humble, but what has its flower-pots neatly arranged at the windows.

The Canal Commissioners, it is known, deemed it advisable to reduce the number of Supervisors. Among those left out was Henry Reader.

Provisions to the election of Governor Porter, North's co., supplied the supervisors from Northumberland to Loyalsock for nine successive years.

Mr. Clay, a few days since, in a very solemn manner, declared that he had not, as he had been reported, charged his friend, Mr. Buchanan, with being 55 years of age.

\$8,000 in specie was found under the wood pile of a close fenced piece of Arch street, Philadelphia, who died a few days since.

Twenty-Six Days Later from Europe.

The Steamer Clyde arrived in New York early on Saturday morning, bringing with her a part of the passengers of the Caladonia, so long looked for.

REVIEW OF THE CALADONIA TO LIVERPOOL.—The Steamer Caladonia, which left Liverpool Feb 4th for Halifax and Boston, was disabled in a tremendous gale on the 10th about 1300 miles from Liverpool, in consequence of which she found it necessary to put back.

Extract from the letter of a passenger on board the Caladonia steamer, dated Cork, 15th February:—

For the first three days after we sailed, we got on admirably with a fair wind, but on the morning of the 7th, the wind dropped round, and commenced blowing very hard.

The gale continued unabated during the 11th. We had to steer by the sails whilst endeavoring to secure the rudder (the main piece of which was completely twisted in the case.)

The papers give an account, among other things, of the royal christening of the Queen's new baby, the infant prince, who is called Alfred Edward, after his father and grandfather, the Duke of Kent.

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Joseph R. Chandler.—Sir: By the packet I send you the Journal des Debates of yesterday, which contains a description of the Grand Ball at the Palais de Tuilleries on the 12th inst., and

above I send you a copy of my invitation to the same. It was a very splendid affair as you will perceive from the description in the paper.

To show you in some measure the hatred the French have for the English, I will relate an incident that took place at the ball that evening. As the gentlemen were going into the supper room, there was a great crowd and rush for the door, at which time a French gentleman pushed up against an American, when some words passed between them, and the French gentleman handed the American his card, and vice versa.

The French dislike the English so much, that they frequently take slight opportunity to insult them. I have often found it to my interest to let the French know that I am an American.

Free Trade.

If the political systems of the various nations of the earth were about to be formed anew, we might listen with patience, and examine with attention the fine spun theories of the advocates of free trade.

FURTHER NOTES UPON TARIFF AND FREE TRADE.—A Government, whether represented by one man or the million, can learn wisdom but from two sources—its own experience and the experience of other nations.

Russia was prosperous in 1815, '17, '18, and '19; but, fascinated with the theories of Adam Smith and J. B. Say, she adopted a new tariff in 1818 on the plan of letting trade regulate itself.

Here is experience—here are known and undeniable effects, resulting from equally well attested causes; and how was the evil corrected? By a return to a Protective Tariff.

To produce happy effects, the principles of commercial freedom must be generally adopted. The State which adopts, while others reject them, must condemn its own industry and commerce to pay a ruinous tribute to those of other nations.

From a circulation exempt from restraint, and the facility afforded by reciprocal exchanges, almost all Governments at first resolved to seek the means of repairing the evil which England had been doomed to suffer; but experience and more correct calculations, because they were made from certain data, and upon results already known of the peace that had just taken place, forced them to adhere to the prohibitory system.

England preserved hers. Austria remained faithful to the rule she laid down to guard herself against the rivalry of foreign industry.

In proportion as the prohibitory system is extended and rendered perfect in other countries, that State which pursues the contrary system makes from day to day sacrifices more extensive and more considerable.

It is with the most lively feelings of regret, we acknowledge that it is our own proper experience which enables us to trace this picture. The evils which it details have been realized in Russia and Poland, since the conclusion of the act of 1818.

Events have proved that our Agriculture and our Commerce, as well as our Manufactures, are not only paralyzed, but brought to the brink of ruin.

Here is experience for our guide against the theories of our free trade philosophers.

Let it be borne in mind, however, that we do not quarrel with the doctrines of free trade when rightly applied and understood. The very term 'trade' implies dealings between two parties, and to make it a free trade, there must be no restriction on either side.

We talk of a return to specie payments in this country as if it were only necessary for our Legislature to vote that it shall be done. Could a correct return be made of the coin now in the country compared to the amount in 1837, the impossibility of the thing would be apparent.

Agriculture without a market—industry languishing and declining—the country drained of specie—and commerce paralyzed and destroyed.

GREAT DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

Johnson and Democracy.

In pursuance of public notice given, an immense meeting of the Democracy of Pennsylvania as entitled at the Court House at Harrisburg, on Saturday evening, the 5th of March inst., for the purpose of interchanging sentiments, and expressing their opinions and judgment in reference to selecting a candidate for the next Presidency, when the meeting was called to order, and on motion of J. G. Schott, Esq.,

- The Hon. JOHN C. BUCHER, of Dauphin county, was unanimously chosen President of the meeting.
Hon. John S. Gibson, of Lehigh.
John C. Plumer, of Westmoreland.
Daniel Snyder, of Columbia.
Andrew Cortright, Esq., of Luzerne.
John Keeler, Esq., of Dauphin.
David Baker, Esq., of Allegheny.
Owen McCabe, Esq., of Dauphin.
Gen. Samuel A. Smith, of Bucks.
Col. John Tway, of Dauphin.
Col. D. M. Bull, of Bradford.

- Were unanimously chosen Vice Presidents of the meeting.
On motion,
H. A. Beebe, Esq., of Bradford.
Lewis B. Dunham, Esq., of Jefferson.
John H. Steck, of Dauphin.
John Alexander, of do.
Were appointed Secretaries.

The meeting being thus organized, Hon. John C. Bucher, President, arose, and in a very modest and pertinent address, returned his thanks to the vast assemblage for the honor conferred upon him in selecting him to preside over their deliberations, on a question affecting so vitally the interests and character of Pennsylvania, and of the whole Union.

On motion of Wm. Elwell, Esq., of Bradford county, it was resolved unanimously that a committee of nine be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting; whereupon the following gentlemen were appointed said committee:

- Wm. Elwell, Esq., of Bradford.
Perrin Ross, Esq., of Luzerne.
Samuel Hill, Esq., of Westmoreland.
Col. John Tway, of Dauphin.
C. H. Silkman, Esq., of Luzerne.
J. G. Schott, Esq., of Dauphin.
Charles Pray, Esq., of do.
Wm. B. Johnston, Esq., of do.

After having retired a short time, the committee returned, and by their chairman, Wm. Elwell, Esq., made the following report, which was read in a forcible manner, eliciting from the meeting frequent bursts of applause, as the reader progressed. The

resolutions were unanimously adopted, in a spirit and manner alike creditable to the Democracy of Pennsylvania, and the Hero of the Thames.

Whereas, The duty of electing the chief executive magistrate of this Union, is one of solemn and imposing responsibility, a duty which comes home to, and concerns every citizen, however humble, to begin a full, free, dispassionate and calm interchange of sentiment, with one another in reference to a selection of the individual to fill the high and imposing state of President of the United States.

Therefore, Resolved, That we have, with all due deliberation, come to the conclusion, that it is our duty, not only as Pennsylvanians, but as Americans, (for it is emphatically a National question) to disclose to the world our preference for the individual who is to be selected to fill the first office in the gift of a free people.

And if the selection of a President of the United States was to be made in consideration of services rendered to the nation, by separate States, then would Pennsylvania stand out in bold relief, and demand that be accorded to her, which would be so pre-eminently just, viz:—to place one of her sons in the Presidential chair; but the genius and theory of our Government are placed on a higher and more devoted ground.

—let the monuments erected in the hearts of a grateful people—let the moral sense of the country—let the history of his whole life—let all these things which make the impression upon the public mind, lead the Democracy of this nation in the selection of their candidate for the next President.

Be it then Resolved, That we present the name of Col. RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, to the people of the United States as their candidate for the Presidency in 1844; and we cordially respond to the nomination of this illustrious man by gallant old Kentucky, made on the glorious eighth of January last.

Resolved, That the services rendered the American people by this great apostle of liberty are tangible so as to be felt. Yes; so luminous as to be seen and acknowledged by the most humble citizen in every election district throughout this expanded confederacy.

Always a democrat and friend of popular government—RICHARD M. JOHNSON has been constantly on the side of the oppressed against the oppressor. In the last bloody onset with the mother country for independence, Col. JOHNSON hastened to the field of strife, of blood and of death, to protect our national honors, our friends and our homes.