

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

H. B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND JOSEPH EISELY, PROPRIETORS.

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From the Albany Daily Advertiser. THE SPECTRE COON.

Air—"Cork Leg."

I'll sing you a song, without any flam, In Ashland there lived a funny old man.

For several years this man was bent, On being elected President.

He mounted his nag one bright summer's day, And cracked his whip, with "hurrah for Clay!"

He rode along so joyful and crank, While in his pocket his cash did clank.

Old Dan he stood by, with a hearty roar, He laughed till his sides were aching sore.

His high mettled racer lay in a swoon, But Henry could not give it up so soon.

He scamped o'er hill, and dale, and plain, Thro' snow, hail, sleet, mud puddles and rain.

He galloped along with a bound and a hop, Of speed he went at the utmost top.

A cornfield now so yellow and bright, Appeared in view; he tried to alight.

He screamed aloud, "Oh ye people dear! Come help me off, I feel so queer!"

As they were buffeting in the wind, An eagle came—he looked and grinned.

The coon he died in wild despair, Says the Eagle, "Old Harry, my boy, beware!"

They run up as high as they could go, The wind with fury began to blow.

As they were buffeting in the wind, An eagle came—he looked and grinned.

The coon he died in wild despair, Says the Eagle, "Old Harry, my boy, beware!"

As the story goes—I tell it right—His skeleton all so ghastly and white.

So Whiggies all, come over soon, And join our ranks, or hear your doom.

A TALL ONE.—An old sailor told us the other day, that during one night, when he was sailing on the Atlantic, the rain poured in such torrents that the ocean rose 6 inches.

A negro woman hung herself, in New Orleans, some time since. She attached a rope to the balustrade of the stairs, threw herself off, and died instantly.

Gals whose minds have something odd in 'em, Oft seek relief by taking laudanum.

And after all, 'tis not surpris'ng, Forsaken gals should swallow pisin'.

SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, August 17, 1844.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

HENRY A. MUHLENBERG.

A Court Scene in Georgia. We clip the following from an exchange paper—what one we do not now remember.

A friend of mine has recently returned from an excursion into the circuit of this State.

He tells me while in the county of—, he strayed into the Court house, and was present at an arraignment of a man by the name of Henry Day, who was charged with attempting to kill his wife.

He answered, "There's a mighty chance of lawyers' lies in the papers; but some part is true. I did strike the old lady; but she fit me powerfully first. She can swear equal to a pile of anything, and her kicks are awful.

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The name of MUHLENBERG is so intimately connected with our provincial and revolutionary history, that a brief account of the distinguished heads of this steadfast Democratic family, will not be an unacceptable introduction to a short outline of the life and character of the individual whom the Democratic party of Pennsylvania have selected as their candidate for Governor at the ensuing general election.

The grandfather of Mr. Muhlenberg, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Senior, of the Lutheran Ministerium of North America, was born in the free city of Embeck, now in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, September 6, 1711, of which city his father, Nicholas M. Muhlenberg, was permanent Chief Burgess. He was educated at the Universities of Gottingen and Halle, and was ordained at Leipsic as a clergyman of the Lutheran church. In the year 1741 he received a call from the Lutheran congregation of Philadelphia, New Providence or Trappe, and New Hanover, or Swamp, in what is now Montgomery county. Accepting the call he visited Hanover, proceeded through Holland to London, where, after remaining a few months, he embarked for America. He arrived at Philadelphia, November 25, 1742, after a very long and boisterous passage, the vessel having been driven into Charleston by stress of weather.

He found his congregation small and in no flourishing condition. That at Philadelphia had no church, and consisted of about 100 heads of families—that at the Trappe was about half as large, and was without a church, and that at New Hanover or Swamp had an unfinished block church, and numbered about 150 heads of families. Of these congregations he immediately took charge, preaching in them alternately, and residing sometimes in Philadelphia, and sometimes at the Trappe, at which latter place he died in 1787, in the 77th year of his age.

Whilst under his charge, and principally by his exertions, the Lutheran Church in Fifth st., above Arch, was founded, and consecrated 14th June, 1743, by the name of St. Michael's church, which venerable edifice is still standing. In 1766 the foundation of Zion's Church in Fourth street, above Arch, was laid, and it was considered at that time one of the largest and handsomest churches in North America.

In 1745, he intermarried with Anna Maria, daughter of Col. Conrad Weiser, a highly esteemed Indian Interpreter, whose influence over them was unbounded, whose name is famous in the early annals of Pennsylvania, and whose valuable services and high character are now a matter of history.

Conrad Weiser was brought to New York, from Germany, by his father in the year 1710, being then in the 13th year of his age. In the year 1713 they settled in Schuylkill county, N. Y., on what was then called Queen Anne's bounty lands, in the midst of the Indians, with whom Conrad soon became a favorite. He was naturalized as an adopted son of the Six Nations with whose language he became perfectly familiar, which enabled him to render many important services not only to the German colony at Schuylkill, but to the constituted authorities of New York. Some difficulties occurring in regard to their title to their lands, Conrad Weiser, with a number of others, left Schuylkill, and were brought by Indian guides on rafts down the Susquehanna to the neighborhood of where Harrisburg is now located, from whence they proceeded to the Tulpehocken creek and its branches, where a new settlement was formed, in which many of their descendants still reside. During this journey he first met William Penn; he was afterwards appointed by him confidential interpreter and special messenger of the Province among the Indians, and was present, assisting in negotiating nearly all the most important treaties between the proprietary government and the Indian tribes. For the purpose he made many journeys to Shamokin, Onondago, the Ohio, &c., and was at that time probably the only white man who could have passed through these countries with safety. In 1755 he was appointed Colonel of a regiment of provincial troops with the command of the chain of forts from Fort Augusta at Sunbury, to the Maryland line. He also acted for many years as a judge, thus rendering himself extremely useful not only to the government but to the people. He was much beloved by the Indians, who, for many years after his death, were in the habit of making visits of affectionate remembrance to his grave.

During the long course of Dr. Muhlenberg's ministry, he was considered the father of the Lutheran Church in America, and styled the "Father of the Germans." He visited the mass of the German congregations, not only in the interior of this State as they were formed, but repeatedly went to Maryland, New Jersey, N. York, South Carolina and Georgia, for the purpose of healing breaches, and doing good spiritually and temporally to all, but particularly to

the Germans and their descendants. Besides being master of the learned languages, he spoke German, English, Low Dutch, French and Swedish with facility, and was thus able greatly to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness.

When the revolutionary struggle commenced, he, as well as his three sons, then grown to manhood, took a most decided stand on the side of liberty and independence, and their influence over the German population was freely used, and was, no doubt, greatly instrumental in causing them to support the cause of the revolution with great zeal and vigor. This was well known to the British and Hessian officers, who were lavish of their threats of violence towards all the family. He writes in his manuscript journal of 1778—"The name of Muhlenberg is greatly disliked and abused by the Hessian and British officers in Philadelphia, and they threaten prison, tortures and death as soon as they can lay hands upon me." When Pennsylvania was the theatre of war in 1777, he resided at the Trappe, 26 miles from the city, where his house was continually filled with fugitives, sick, wounded and hungry, and none ever left it without relief and consolation. He received many warnings, and was often entreated to remove farther from the scene of war, and notwithstanding several threats of a visit from the enemy, who sometimes approached within six or eight miles, he always refused, saying that he was of more use than he could be at a greater distance, and would trust to Providence for protection in the cause of humanity and his country.

After a long career of usefulness he expired at the Trappe, greatly lamented, not only by his own family, but by a large circle of friends, scattered throughout the United States. He left three sons—Peter, Frederick and Henry.

Peter Muhlenberg, the eldest, was borne at the Trappe, in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1746. In the 16th year of his age, he was sent to Germany, with his two younger brothers, to complete his education. The strict discipline, however, of the school where the boys were placed, preparatory to their entering the University of Halle, suited neither his temper nor his habits. Being found unmanageable, he was sent to Hanover, where meeting with a British colonel, whom he had frequently seen at his father's house in Philadelphia, he was induced to take him back with him to America as his secretary.

His father now took charge of his education, and having prepared him for the ministry, he was sent to England, and in company with the late Bishop White, ordained by the Bishops of London and Ely in the spring of 1772; the Swedish Lutheran Church, for which he was destined, having retained bishops at the reformation, and always required their clergyman to be ordained by one. Upon his return he was stationed for a short time at New Germantown in New Jersey; from thence he removed to Danmore county, (now Shenandoah) Virginia, where he had charge of several large congregations, until the fall of 1775, when, at the solicitation of Gen. Washington, with whom for several years previous he had been intimately acquainted, he accepted the commission of Colonel of the 8th Virginia regiment on the continental establishment. The following anecdote is told of him: After the receipt of his commission, he preached a farewell sermon, in the course of which he told his congregation that "there was a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to fight, and that now was the time to fight." After which he descended from the pulpit, dismissed the congregation, put on his uniform, and going to the church door, ordered the drums to beat for recruits. Known as an ardent whig, he had been persecuted by the Tories, but he was therefore the more esteemed by the people whom he had before this time represented in the Virginia House of Delegates. Being greatly beloved and enjoying general confidence throughout the whole of Western Virginia, he found no difficulty in filling his regiment, with which he immediately marched for the protection of Charlesston, S. C. At the battle of Sullivan's Island, June 28, 1776, and during the whole of the trying campaigns in Georgia and South Carolina, he acted a brave and distinguished part. Sharing every fatigue and deprivation incident to such a campaign with his soldiers, he became a favorite with them, who always readily followed him in any daring and hazardous enterprise.

On the 21st February, 1777, he was promoted by Congress to the rank of Brigadier General. September 11, 1777, he took part in the battle of Brandywine, where his brigade and that of Gen. Weedon formed Wayne's division, which after the day began to go against the Americans, sustained the front of the battle. At the battle of Germantown, Oct. 4, 1777, his brigade penetrated farthest into the town, and consequently suffered more severely than any other. After a retreat had been ordered, he commanded the rear guard which covered the retreat of the left wing. During this retreat,

overcome with fatigue, having for two days and a night been almost constantly on horseback and without sleep, he sat dozing on his horse. From this condition he was aroused by the singing of a ball past his head and the cry "pick off that officer on the white horse." While Captain Hubley, of Lancaster, and some of his men were pulling down a fence which the General's tired horse was unable to leap, he drew a pistol, and turning in the saddle, saw a young officer who had fired at him, personally engaged in re-loading his musket. Taking deliberate aim with his pistol, he fired and blew out his brains. The General was afterwards heard to say, that he regretted the death he was obliged to inflict, as the officer was an uncommonly fine looking man.

He was at the hard fought battle on the plains of Monmouth, June 28, 1778; and at the storming of Stony Point he commanded the reserve. Gen. Wayne in his letter to General Washington says:—"Previous to the attack I had drawn Gen. Muhlenberg into my rear, who took post on the opposite side of the march, in readiness, either to support us or cover a retreat in case of accident; and I have not the least doubt of his faithfully and gallantly effecting either, had there been occasion for it." During Leslie's incursion into Virginia, 1780, Gen. Muhlenberg held the chief command of the American forces, and he acted under the command of Baron Steuben during the subsequent invasion of the same State by Arnold and Phillips in 1780. When Cornwallis marched into Virginia in 1781, Gen. Muhlenberg was second in command to Lafayette, and shared with him the dangers and responsibilities, and also the glory of that campaign. In the battle of Green Spring, July 6, 1781, when the Pennsylvania line, under Gen. Wayne, fell into confusion, by a forced march of several miles, Gen. Muhlenberg threw himself, without orders between the enemy and the disordered Americans, and thus saved the Pennsylvania troops from a total defeat.

At the glorious siege of Yorktown, he commanded the First Brigade of Light Infantry, which stormed the British redoubts, an action which placed him among the most conspicuous heroes of the revolution. Col. Alexander Hamilton commanding one of the regiments of that brigade, received the principal honor, which, strictly speaking, belonged to the General, whose modesty and easy disposition caused him to acquiesce in the report made of that affair. His portrait occupies a place in the picture by Trumbull of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, now in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington.

He continued in service to the entire close of the war, and was promoted to the rank of Major General before the army was disbanded. Col. Monroe, afterwards President of the U. States, was one of his aides-de-camp.

Under the old constitution of Pennsylvania, from 1785-88, while Franklin was President of the State, he was Vice President. In 1788, he was elected by general ticket to the first Congress, to serve as a member from Pennsylvania from the 4th of March, 1789, to 1791. On the 22d June, 1789, in conjunction with Madison and the other republicans, he voted in favor of the amendment to the law constituting the State Department, which amendment provided that the Secretary should be removable by the President alone. The passage of this resolution settled the disputed question, whether the Senate had a right to participate in removals from office as well as in appointments, and afforded the friends of General Jackson a satisfactory precedent to justify his removal of the Secretary of the Treasury from office. In this Congress the question "what title shall be given to the President" was agitated. Gen. Muhlenberg strenuously opposed the granting of any titles of honor whatsoever.

In 1793, he was elected a member of the 3d Congress, and in 1799, a member of the 6th Congress from Montgomery county, and in the Presidential election following the resignation of Washington, he was an elector from Pennsylvania, and voted for Thomas Jefferson, whose warm personal and political friend he was.

When the great party contest occurred in Pennsylvania, between McKean and Ross, for the gubernatorial chair (by which the lines between the Democratic and Federal parties were distinctly drawn,) Gen. Muhlenberg took a firm and decided stand with the Democrats, and was placed at the head of the Democratic State Central Committee, composed of Thomas Leiper, Joseph Hiester, Michael Lieb, S. Miles, Alexander J. Dallas and others. It was at the time freely admitted that his exertions had made McKean Governor. The election of McKean, after a most severe and bitter contest, was a great triumph to the Democrats, and assisted materially in afterwards electing Jefferson to the Presidency.

In the Presidential election of 1801, the electoral votes for President and Vice President were divided, and Jefferson and Burr, the De-

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ocratic candidates, having a majority and being equal, it remained for the House of Representatives to choose between them. Burr threw himself into the arms of the Federalists, on condition that they made him President; there were 35 balloting with the same result, until some of Burr's friends becoming alarmed, gave way, and on the 36th ballot, Jefferson was elected President. Gen. Muhlenberg, as one of the representatives from Pennsylvania, voted for Jefferson on every ballot.

In the winter of 1801, he was elected a United States Senator from Pennsylvania, to serve from the 4th of March, 1801. In July following he resigned this situation. In January 1802, he was appointed by President Jefferson, Supervisor of the Revenue for the district of Pennsylvania, and in the year following he was made Collector of the port of Philadelphia, in which office he remained until his death, which took place, Oct. 1, 1807, in the 61st year of his age, at his country seat in the vicinity of Gray's Ferry. His death was caused by the effects of the fatigue and exposure which he suffered during his southern campaigns. He is buried at the Trappe in Montgomery county.

In 1787, he was elected President of the German Society of Philadelphia, and it is believed that he was annually re-elected during his life.

He was tall in person, moderately stout, very active of body and of undimmed bravery. His coolness and determination, combined with his excellent judgment, made him one of the men in whom Gen. Washington during the war relied for success, and on whom, from his previous knowledge of him, he knew he could depend. He was modest in regard to his own actions and claims, and always careless in asserting them. Ever a stern democrat, he was unhesitating and undeviating in his opposition to all aristocratic measures. He was easy and popular in his manners, having always retained the frankness of a soldier.

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg was the second son of Dr. H. M. Muhlenberg, and was born at the Trappe, in Montgomery county, on the 2d of June, 1750. He accompanied his brothers to Germany, and was educated at the university of Halle, in Saxony, being intended for the church. After ordination he returned to America, and was stationed for some time at Shaefferstown, in Lebanon county. From thence he removed to the city of New York, where he remained as a Lutheran clergyman until the British were about entering the city. Having with his father and brothers been an ardent supporter of the American cause, he calculated on mistreatment should he fall into the hands of the enemy. He therefore removed to the Swamp, in Montgomery county, where he remained a few years.

In 1779 he was elected by the State Legislature one of the Delegates to represent Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress. The next year he was again elected to his honorable post.

In 1787 he was sent as a delegate from Montgomery county to the State Convention, which was assembled to consider the new Federal Constitution. The Convention elected him its President, and he voted for the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

In December 1788, Pennsylvania elected him a member of the first Congress under the new Constitution. There was however no quorum present until April 1, 1789, when he was chosen SPEAKER. He was elected to the second, third and fourth Congresses, and served again as Speaker during the third Congress.

He was considered as one of the most useful, active and leading members of the House during the period he was a member, as the journals of that period will show.

Near the close of Gen. Mifflin's period of service, he was appointed Register of the Land Office of Pennsylvania, an office which he held at the time of his death, which took place in Lancaster, in the year 1812.

Henry Ernestus Muhlenberg, the youngest of the three brothers, was sent at an early age to Europe to be educated. After having been kept some years at a preparatory school, he entered the university of Halle. On the completion of his studies he also was ordained as a minister to the Lutheran church, and on his return became his father's adjunct in the Philadelphia congregations, where he remained until the British entered the city. Distinguished with the whole family as an ardent Whig, he was threatened with a halter, and found himself obliged to fly at the approach of the enemy.—Leaving the city disguised in a blanket coat, with a rifle on his shoulder, he had nearly fallen into the hands of the enemy through the treachery of a Tory run-keeper, who advised him to take the road upon which the British were approaching. Warned however in time by a whig inmate of the house, he effected his escape and reached the Swamp in safety.

Feeling the want of employment and books at this place, he devoted himself to the study of natural history, mineralogy and botany in