

# ADDRESS

OF THE  
Democratic State Central Committee  
To the people of Pennsylvania.

## FELLOW CITIZENS:

Among the duties assigned to us by the Democratic party, we are obliged to address you, sitting forth in a plain and simple manner the issues that will be submitted to the people at the approaching election. A proper regard to the opinions of men requires that we should endeavor to explain to the people the reason why the Democratic party again ask them to combine in one common cause in support of its principles and chosen men.

The offices to be filled in the coming election, may not, of themselves, be of sufficient consequence to excite popular interest, yet that of Canal Commissioner involves large public trusts, which should only be confined to a man of known experience and integrity. For that office the Democratic party have chosen as their candidate, ARNOLD PLUMER, whose past life, both public and private, justifies us in saying that he possesses the experience, firmness and unblemished integrity, which pre-eminently fit him for that office, and render him worthy of your confidence and choice. But far beyond the success of any candidate or the obtaining of any office, are the subjects now before you to be examined and discussed, and by your determination, probably, forever settled.

Their infinite importance, not only to yourselves and to Pennsylvania, but to all the people and States of this confederacy, should stimulate you to a zealous support of the principles and candidates of the Democratic party.

We cannot abstain from dwelling upon these subjects, and by your appeals to your reason and sense of duty to your country and to humanity, we shall strive to rouse you to an effort that shall be worthy of the occasion and your past history.

The Democratic party of the United States is the great conservator of this vast political organization stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and covered with teeming millions of freemen. To its guardianship has been confined the custody of the simple elements of political truth which are at the basis of our institutions. In all the changes of public affairs it has been the proud privilege of that party to stand by the Constitution of the country and to restrain all attempts to pervert its provisions or corrupt its principles. It has been, and still is, the citadel of our liberties and the bulwark of those just doctrines, to establish which, the people rose as one man, and with the sympathies of the whole civilized world overthrew an aristocratic and legislative despotism and established a government, which by its mild and humane temper, offered to mankind the hope that, in one land at least, there should be a refuge from oppression and intolerance.— This has been the duty of the Democratic party, and with unflinching fidelity has that party kept its sacred trusts. From the first moment—even before the organization of this government—and while the states were deliberating upon the adoption of the constitution of the country, the great men who were afterwards to become the leaders of the democratic party exerted their powerful energies and truthful intellects to secure upon a firm foundation, as upon a rock, the principles that are incorporated in the body of the constitution and in its subsequent amendments. Again, we say to the democratic party belongs the duty of standing resolutely and unflinchingly by that constitution and by the purest and most holy of its principles.

The earliest history of this government was identified with the contentions between the great parties whose doctrines were the subjects to which the thoughts and labors of the statesmen of those days were devoted.— The federal party was anxious to establish a strong consolidated government, made for the people, and to be controlled by the men of property, and education and social condition. The democratic party resisted this scheme of grand nationality to be raised upon the ruins of Independent States, and at the cost of popular liberty, and urged and secured the establishment of a Government limited and restricted in its powers, acknowledging State sovereignty, intended for the benefit and welfare of all, based upon principles of equality and justice created for the people, and governed by the people upon broad and enduring principles of human rights. During the many years of important and stirring political events that have since succeeded those days, the two parties thus arrayed in the beginning on opposite sides were often engaged in disputes arising out of a multitude of questions and issues, all of which could be resolved into the original ground of contention between them. The Federal Party being a party of expedience, and relying upon State craft and political management, and still distrusting the people, have under various names and with various pretenses and contrivances, sought by indirect and crooked ways to obtain those ends and aims from which they were driven by the letter and spirit of the constitution. It was supposed that the time had gone by when the people should ever be in danger of any open attempt to subvert the Constitution and its acknowledged principles by any organized political action avowedly directed to such purpose.— Implication and forced interpretation of its letter, were the only means by which the people were sought to be abused, and their government turned against themselves for the advancement and profit of adroit political adventures. That supposition was an error, for now we are again reminded by the action of a new and dangerous combination, that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

Fellow-Citizens, we have again to confront the same issues that we made in 1799, and to fight for the same principles that convulsed this country then, and in vindicating which Jefferson triumphed, and Madison earned the love and gratitude of a thankful people. The insignificant and minor subjects of difference that have for some time past divided the public men of the country, are all obliterated by the magnitude of the question now before you. Your opponents, under a deluding and tempting cry demanding that "Americans shall rule America," have at last with forced and compulsive candor, acknowledged that they wish to establish two principles.

I. That none but those born in this country, shall enjoy the rights of citizenship.

II. That there shall be established a religious test for office.

To reach these ends the Constitution of the United States must be changed or its provisions evaded, and the spirit of our Democratic Republican forms of government thus altogether subverted. The Declaration of Inde-

pendence itself charged upon the King of Great Britain, as one of the most serious grievances under which we had suffered, that "he had endeavored to prevent the population of the States, for that purpose obstructing the laws for the naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of land." The complaint thus made, was part of the first public protest of a united people against arbitrary authority, and in favor of Human Rights. The reasons that then prompted this, have been ever since acknowledged as an element of our institutions that has secured to us the confidence of mankind, and been the first great cause of our marvelous success as a people.

When the defects of the Confederation were apparent, and the necessities of the public called for a more stable and perfect form of Union, and the Constitution was adopted; among its most conspicuous provisions was the authority delegated to Congress to establish a uniform rule of Naturalization, and in the very last clause of the very last section of that instrument the following words were inserted: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." Thus sealing, as it were, the Bond of our Union with the sacred and rational principle of the Liberty of Conscience and the Right of Private Judgment.

When the Constitution was submitted to the States for their adoption, it is to be remembered that New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, all ratified it with a solemn declaration of rights, which they set forth as explanations consistent with it, and which could not be abridged or violated, and which they proposed should be adopted as amendments thereto. Rhode Island and North Carolina, in a spirit of sturdy resistance to absolutism, and of manly devotion to the cause of Liberty, for their own sakes, for the sake of their posterity, and for the sake of the human race, re-assented the doctrines and dogmas of the Bill of Rights, and for a while declined to ratify the Constitution until these sacred and inviolable principles of natural right were acknowledged and adopted as a part of its text, and in all of these proposed amendments were incorporated a solemn declaration in favor of civil and religious liberty. At the first session of the first Congress the amendments to the Constitution were adopted and subsequently ratified by the States, and the first article of those amendments set the question at rest forever by declaring that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." It is worthy of observation, that when in Convention it was proposed by Mr. Pickney to add to the Sixth Article the clause prohibiting a religious test that Mr. Sherman thought it unnecessary, the prevailing liberality being a sufficient security against such test, after which Mr. Gouverneur, Morris and General Pickney approved the motion, and it was carried unanimously. These enlightened men were too well aware of the disastrous consequences attendant upon any interference by the State with the religious opinions of its citizens.— The bloody record of fanatical persecutions was spread out before them, and in it they read of those atrocities that were the darkest stains upon the character of the human race. From the earliest days down to their own time, had the history of mankind shown that its advancements in civilization had been retarded, and sometimes almost stifled in the ferocious conflicts between contending sects and exterminating propagandism. In all parts of the world had fire and faggot, the sword and the spear, brutalized men into implicit obedience to religious opinions they did not understand, and faiths at which their consciences revolted. From religious persecution had their fathers fled, and by emigration had their sovereignties been established. Up to that time, by God's providence had this land been the refuge of oppressed men, and with God's protection they were resolved to dedicate their country to the cause of civilization and religious freedom, and from that day to this time has their noble work remained untouched. May it last forever!

But now, after we have enjoyed the blessings of these sacred provisions, has a party risen in our midst, and with secret oath-bound combinations, resolved to blot out this pure and life giving principle, and by force and violence of law restrain and abridge the liberties of men and limit their civil rights by an odious and impious religious test. As citizens of this mighty Republic, as members of the great Democratic party, as men for the sake of mankind at large, we call upon you to resist this sacrilege and rebuke these conspirators against the honor and dignity of our Constitution and laws.

After the adoption of the Constitution, and during the administration of the elder Adams, Congress enacted two statutes, one concerning aliens; and the other entitled an act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, known as the Alien and Sedition Laws. Immediately upon the enactment of these statutes, the States of Kentucky and Virginia passed certain resolutions condemning them as violations of the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and rebuking them as gross attempts to establish arbitrary authority, and as subversive of the liberties of the people. The Kentucky resolutions were written by Mr. Jefferson, and those of Virginia were written by Mr. Madison, and both of these were addressed to the Legislatures of the several States, inviting their co-operation to resist these Statutes.— Some of the Legislatures refused to co-operate with Virginia and Kentucky, and pronounced these resolutions to be of a dangerous tendency, and therefore not fit subject for further consideration. To these refusals the Commonwealth of Virginia replied in the form of a Report drawn by Mr. Madison, and adopted by the Legislature of the State in 1799. The object of the Alien law was exposed in these resolutions and in that Report, and the mischievous consequences of its adoption were fully explained and demonstrated in those masterly papers. In them it was proclaimed to be inhuman, impolitic, illegal and irrational for Congress to restrain the current of emigration that was setting in towards our shores, caused by the high tides of civil convulsions and public discord that were raging in Europe. Mr. Jefferson there said that "the Alien law will furnish new calamities against republican governments, and new pretenses for those who wish it to be believed that man cannot be governed but by a rod of iron, and that a very numerous and valuable description of the inhabitants of these States would, by this precedent, be reduced as outlaws," and that "the mild spirit of our country and its laws had pledged hospitality and protection to these friendless strangers." It was denounced by

Mr. Madison in his report, as tyrannical in its spirit, and conferring a despotic power upon the President, to banish "an alien from a country into which he had been invited as the asylum most auspicious to his happiness, a country where he may have formed the most tender connections, and where he may have invested his entire property."

This law thus resisted, and nullified, and defeated, never assumed to do more than exercise a restraining power over ALIENS, and harsh as it was, had no relation to naturalization, and no man among the hardest of its supporters at that day, dared to propose the disfranchisement of emigrants or the abolition of the naturalization laws. The public that was indignant at the tyrannical spirit of that statute, would have burst out with one shout of condemnation at any attempt to outlaw freemen and reduce them to the condition of slaves, because they were born in another country, and were of another people. Upon the resistance to the Alien and Sedition Laws, and in support of the principles announced in those resolutions and that Report of '99, was Mr. Jefferson elected, and the Democratic party established as an organized element of political action in this country. From that day to this, has it been steadfast in its integrity and purity, upholding and vindicating the liberties of the country.

Our Constitution was not wrested from the reluctant hands of lawless kings. It was the free compact of free sovereignties of free men, made with each other for their own domestic advantage in the common cause of human freedom, and for the perpetuation of human rights. Our commercial and public necessities, and our political principles, all prompted us to encourage emigration, and by its healthful influence have we prospered as a people. We have multiplied in our inhabitants. We have increased in our wealth and grown mightily with a population that has been driven to us for shelter and to whom we are pledged before the world to secure the rights of civil and religious liberty, and upon whom we are likewise pledged as Democrats, to confer the rights of citizenship as the inalienable right of their manhood. In the making of the laws that govern them they as freemen have a right to participate. To refuse them that right would be impolitic, illegal and inhuman. By adopting them we have secured the service of men skilled in all the mysteries of the mechanic arts, and we have despoiled Europe, and European Monarchs of greater sources of national and personal property, individual happiness and public renown, than if we had conquered in a hundred fights. Treat them as aliens, disqualify them by statute, and we have in our midst a body of oppressed, unhappy and dissatisfied men, who would feel their degradation among freemen, and sink to its level.

There is not an evil complained of in the whole catalogue of accusation preferred against the naturalized voters of the country, that would equal the wrong that would be done to our principles and our people, by the refusal to allow the right of suffrage and the equal right of office to all citizens. In countries where the government is a fraud upon the people, and the right of suffrage but a name, restraints upon the rights of citizenship with their constitutions, but in this country dedicated to civil and religious liberty, laws for those purposes would be violent inconsistencies that must shock all right minded men. We know that there are many, very many, honest and well meaning men, who wandered off from the proper path, and in their desire to correct alleged abuses of the naturalization laws, have suffered themselves to give their support to this new and pernicious political heresy. To those men we would especially appeal, and earnestly entreat them to pause before they shall aid in furthering projects, the result of which will startle their understandings and appal their hearts. Let them beware of a political party that has been afraid to reveal its principles, and conceals its actions—let them consider how unmanly and irrational must those men be who would thus secretly unite, and binding each other in the spirit of mutual distrust, by solemn and illegal oaths, to carry out a great public purpose and to produce a great public revolution. In tyrannical countries, where political intolerance and persecution proscribes men for liberal opinions, such combinations are some times necessary, but always dangerous for the cause of freedom. But it was left for a Democratic country, in a Democratic and liberal age, for men thus to conspire in favor of political intolerance and persecuting bigotry. To the pure minded men who have thus erred and strayed away, do we submit these considerations for their action, hoping that they will yet return to correct views, and sustain the cause of republican liberty by a zealous opposition to the pernicious principles, and intolerant discipline of this new and dangerous faction.

Before we conclude this appeal to your reason and your patriotism, we must invite your attention to the subject of domestic slavery. With that institution Pennsylvanians have nothing to do. In the exercise of a wise philanthropy, we have long since abolished it. But because we have exerted our sovereign power over it, we must not endeavor to control sister States in the regulation of the subject. If we entertain sentiments adverse to its introduction, we must not propagate those opinions at the cost of the domestic tranquility of other States, or at the risk of perilling our common Union. It would not become freemen to be involved in inappreciable discord, for the sake of a small number of slaves, whose condition we cannot change. The Constitution was the result of many adjustments and compromises, and with it we have secured domestic tranquility, private prosperity and public liberty. Time will reveal the end and purpose of this institution of slavery existing in some of the States of this Union; but while we live under the Constitution, we must abide by its provisions and its solemn compacts. All attempts to regulate this subject by congressional action must prove abortive and end in tumult and disorder. With us the Constitution is paramount to the laws, and it is disobedience and insubordination of the worst kind, to strive, by political agitation, to subvert the one, and encroach upon the other.

Like all other questions of strictly local concern, that of Slavery should be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the people of the territory or place in which it is proposed, to establish or reject it. This principle of local self-government is the basis of all our institutions, and is essential to political freedom. It may for a time, be abused and trampled on, as other rights have been, but men should not, because of that, be deprived of it. It is for the common interest of all that each and every citizen should freely and peacefully exercise the right; and the principle and practice thus universally ordained and recommended by the founders of our govern-

ment, will be firmly maintained by the Democratic party.

J. F. JOHNSTON,  
Chairman.

H. A. GILDEA,  
JACOB ZEIGLER, } Secy's.

## Agricultural Society.

In pursuance of adjournment the Huntingdon County Agricultural Society met at the Court House in the borough of Huntingdon, on Tuesday evening the 14th of August, 1855, and was called to order by the President. The minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved; and upon the suggestion of the President, the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Society, were read by the Secretary.

The Treasurer presented the Constitution of the Society to the meeting, for the purpose of obtaining members. The Librarian at the same time presented to the meeting a large collection of choice seeds and grains, which were distributed in small packages to the members of the Society.

On motion, H. N. McAllister, Esq., of Bellefonte, entertained the meeting with a very instructive and eloquent address.

On motion of Gen. Watson, Resolved, That the Vice Presidents of this Society be instructed to call meetings in their respective townships, some time between this and the time of holding the Fair, for the purpose of obtaining members and creating greater interest in the enterprise.

On motion, Benj. K. Neff, Esq., was elected a Vice President for West Township, in place of Joseph Reed, Esq., dec'd.

On motion, the borough of Huntingdon was declared entitled to a Vice President; and A. W. Benedict, Esq., was unanimously elected as such.

The following subject was offered by Gen. Watson, for discussion at the meeting of the Society during the November Court, viz:—The best way to resuscitate a worn out piece of meadow ground.

The following subject was also offered by Gen. Speer, of Cassville, viz: The best method of preventing the potato rot.

On motion adjourned to meet at the place of holding the Fair, on the 10th of October next.

JON. McWILLIAMS, Pres't.

J. S. BARR, } Sec'y's.  
J. S. ISETT, }

## Report of the Executive Committee.

In pursuance of notice, the Executive Committee of the Huntingdon County Agricultural Society met at the office of J. Sewell Stewart, Esq., in the borough of Huntingdon, on Tuesday the 14th of August at 3 o'clock, P. M., and was organized by appointing J. S. ISETT, Esq., Chairman, and J. S. BARR, Esq., Secretary.

After hearing a number of verbal reports from members present, it was on motion, agreed that the Executive Committee should immediately visit the Lot in West Huntingdon, offered by Wm. Dorris, Esq., to the Committee of Arrangements, for the purpose of holding the Annual Fair in October. After the Committee returned from viewing the ground, which was found to be a favorable locality, and well calculated for the purpose, it was on motion.

Resolved, That the Committee of Arrangements be instructed to accept of the Lot, and proceed forthwith to have it enclosed with a board fence (with the exception of one side,) and that J. S. Isett, Esq., be authorized to purchase a sufficient quantity of lumber to enclose the ground, and erect the necessary sheds, &c.

On motion of Gen. Watson, the Committee of Arrangements were instructed to invite the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, to deliver an address before the Society, sometime during the Fair, and in case of his declining, to invite some other distinguished speaker.

On motion, A. W. Benedict, Esq., and Hon. James G. were appointed a Committee to solicit membership and collect funds in the borough of Huntingdon, for the use of the Society.

## Whig County Convention.

Agreeably to public notice, the Convention met at the Public School House, in the borough of Huntingdon, and organized by electing Daniel W. Womelsdorf, Esq., of Franklin, President, and David F. Tussey of Porter Secretary.

A motion was then submitted, requiring each delegate to pledge himself that he has no connection with the secret political organization commonly called Know Nothings.

The resolution was adopted (only two delegates Dr. Brown and David Clarkson, Esq., from Cass, dissenting) and the following pledge was subscribed to by all of the delegates, except the two above named, to wit:—Whereas, as we have met in Convention in accordance with the long-established usages of the Whig Party of Huntingdon County, to nominate a ticket to be supported by them at the ensuing election, and as it is important that the members of this Convention act towards each other, and the Party which they represent, in good faith, and honesty, without any dissimulation whatever: Therefore,

Resolved, That we sincerely and truly pledge our honor as men and as Whigs, that we have no connection with the secret political organization commonly called Know Nothings, or by any other name whatever that we are Whigs in faith and practice, and owe no allegiance to them or any other party that does not endorse and sustain our principles of opposition to all such secret and oath-bound political organizations.

Resolved, That we fully, freely, and unreservedly make and give the above pledge unto each other, and as evidence of our political faith and assent thereunto, we do hereby subscribe our names.

On motion it was resolved to be inexpedient to make any nominations for County Offices, by the Convention at this time, but that a Committee be elected to take into consideration, the propriety of nominating a full Whig Ticket under the new, apparently changed political condition of the party in the county.

On motion, the Committee then proceeded to elect the Committee provided in the above resolution, with power to nominate a full Whig Ticket, if deemed expedient, or to meet a similar Committee to be elected by the Democratic County Convention, for the purpose of forming a ticket to be supported at the coming election by all who are opposed to such secret political organizations, as have sprung up amongst us, within the last year.

Daniel W. Womelsdorf, Esq., Lewis H. Knode, Daniel D. Wood, James McDonald, and Henry Cornprobst were declared as being the duly elected members of the aforesaid Committee.

On motion, John W. Mattern, Esq., was elected Representative Delegate to the Whig State Convention, which is to meet at Har-

risburg on the 11th day September next, and Col. John Doyle, John McCahan, and Tobias Harnish, Senatorial Conferees to meet the Conferees of Blair and Cambria to choose a Senatorial Delegate to the same Convention.

On motion, the Convention by their President appointed a Whig for each township as the Whig County Committee for the ensuing year.

The following gentlemen compose the Committee.

Col. John A. Doyle, Huntingdon; Samuel Wigton, Franklin; John Rung, West; John Dean, Walker; John Lutz, Shirley; Simon Graiz, Cromwell; Isaac Smith, Cass; James McDonald, Brady; David F. Tussey, Porter; John Davis, Morris; Robert Cummins, Jackson; Wm. Hutchison, Warriorsmark; Henry D. Robinson, Dublin; R. Davidson, Barree; Isaac Peighal, Penn.

On motion, the Convention adjourned.

DANIEL W. WOMELSDORF, Pres't  
DAVID F. TUSSEY, Sec'y.

## A Frank Admission from a Know-Nothing Organ.

Prior to the late elections in Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, the Buffalo (New York) Commercial, a leading know-nothing organ, made the following frank admission, which was not only uttered in sincerity, but has the merit of being founded in truth:

"If Gentry is defeated in Tennessee, and the democrats achieve a decided success in North Carolina, the American party will no longer have an existence as a national organization. Even if they win a signal victory in Kentucky on Monday next, it will avail them nothing, coming upon an overthrow in the other States just named."

The Albany Argus of the 9th instant has the following reasonable comments on the above:

"The Buffalo Commercial used the above language in an article concerning the elections in North Carolina and Tennessee, which appeared in that paper on the 2d instant.— The contingency suggested has occurred.— Gentry is defeated in Tennessee, and the democrats have achieved a decided success in North Carolina—electing, in the latter State, five out of the eight members of Congress. The Buffalo Commercial is a know-nothing paper, and of course looks with anxiety upon the result of the summer elections. It very frankly states the impotence of the struggle in Tennessee and North Carolina, and does not over-estimate the influence of a result adverse to know-nothingism. Following upon the heels of a defeat in Virginia, the republic in the two former States settles the question that the order has no political strength in the South, and "will no longer have an existence as a national organization." The Commercial is right in its conclusion that success in Kentucky, which the know-nothings have probably secured, "will avail them nothing, coming upon an overthrow in the other States just named."— Know-nothingism now disappears from the stage as a powerful political element, and the presidential contest will be conducted unimpeded, to any considerable extent, by this disturbing force.

"It is to be presumed that candid and intelligent members of the order, after this distinct admission by one of its leading and its ablest organ, that it no longer has an existence as a national organization, will prefer to abandon its past pretensions in that respect, to regard the mission of the order as ended, and to attach themselves to such living political organizations as best accord with their sympathies. Democrats, it seems to us, will not deem it wise to separate themselves longer from their political brethren, in the expectation that this secret order will have the power to accomplish any results which they desire."

The contingency suggested by the Buffalo Commercial has not only occurred, but Alabama, too, has proclaimed in thunder tones to her sister States that know-nothingism cannot have an existence as a national organization.

## State Central Committee.

The Democratic State central Committee met at Harrisburg on Wednesday last, a full attendance of members being present from every section of the State. The best spirit prevailed, and the information from all quarters indicates a decisive and complete overthrow of the know nothing treason.— Honorable and high minded whigs are coming out openly everywhere, and refusing to act with them.

The Committee adopted an address which we publish in to-day's Globe.

The following letter from the Hon. ARNOLD PLUMER, in reply to the one from the State Central Committee, will be read with pleasure. It is full and ingenious in its declarations, and worthy of so noble a Democrat as our nominee for Canal Commissioner:

SRS:—Having received the nomination for the office of Canal Commissioner, from the Democratic State Convention, assembled at Harrisburg on the 4th inst., and said Convention having passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the candidates for nomination for Canal Commissioner be severally pledged that they are not at the present time, members of, or in any way connected with, any secret political association; that they will not become connected with such association, if nominated, at any time prior to the election, nor, if elected, during their continuance in office; and that the nominee of the Convention shall give to the State Central Committee a pledge, which they shall subscribe, in relation to the subject of Know-Nothingism and that if he decline to take such pledge, the State Central Committee is authorized to make a nomination in his stead.

It affords me pleasure hereby to pledge myself to the State Central Committee, that I am not at the present time, nor have I been at any time, connected with any secret political organization or association—nor will I become connected with any such association or organization at any time prior to the election, nor if elected during my continuance in office.

This pledge is given in the language of the resolution of the State Convention, and in the form proscribed by the State Central Committee; but I desire further to state to that Committee, and through them to the voters of the Commonwealth, that I reject in

the most unqualified terms the doctrines of the Know Nothing party, so far as they have not been taken from; and do not conform to, the avowed principles of the democratic party, they being otherwise anti-Republican and anti-American. As a citizen of the United States, as a Pennsylvanian, professing to be governed by the Constitution of my country, and liberal Christian principles, I could not subscribe and solemnly take the oath required of me upon assuming the office of Canal Commissioner, "to support the Constitution of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States." If I had taken an oath or other obligation binding myself to reject the claims of any American citizen for office, on account of his religious belief or the place of his birth, such tests being expressly forbidden by both those sacred instruments.

From the principles involved in the approaching election, I deem it the most important which the Democracy have been called upon to participate in for many years. To be chosen standard bearer of the party in such a contest, is a high honor, for which I shall ever be grateful.

Truly yours,  
ARNOLD PLUMER.

To JAS. F. JOHNSON,  
Chairman of State Central Committee.

## Public Meeting.

At a large meeting of the friends of Temperance and good order, held in the hall of the Sons of Temperance in the borough of Birmingham, on Friday evening August 24th, 1855, JOHN OWENS, Esq., was called to the chair, Rev. ISRAEL U. WARD and Rev. ELISHA BUTLER, were selected as Vice President, and JOHN M. STONEROAD, Secretary. After the presiding officer had truly stated the object of the meeting the Rev. THOMAS WARD submitted the following preamble and Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

We the inhabitants of the borough of Birmingham and vicinity, both male and female, feeling a deep and abiding interest in the welfare and peace of our community, all of which were to some extent involved in the prosecution recently carried against a number of our most esteemed and respectable young men for the alleged demolition by them of the most corrupting and peace disturbing nuisance with which any village was ever infested and afflicted, deem it our duty to give public expression to that which we believe to be the prevailing sentiments of this neighborhood, therefore

Resolved first, That we now as ever look upon tipping houses and grogeries where drunkenness, disorder and crime are engendered and encouraged, as nuisances of the worst kind, and if they be as confessed and admitted by the counsel employed by the prosecutor in the case alluded to, nothing better than "nuisances sustained by law," it is time we should take decided measures to rid ourselves as well of such laws, as of the nuisances which they are obliged to sustain.

Second, That while we utterly deprecate a resort to anything like mob laws for the correction of the ordinary misdemeanors that occur in community it is asking too much of parents and relations to stand by and daily see their sons and friends slowly murdered and dragged to death, without putting forth a hand at once to arrest these remorseless destroyers.

Third, That while the Court and the jury under the technical rules of law, which their outbids binds them to respect, could not act in the said trial otherwise than they did, we fully adopt and endure the statements made to Governor Pollock to the effect that if technical rules did require the jury to convict, pure natural justice required there should be no punishment. That the action of His Excellency the Governor in granting a pardon promptly for the arrest of sentence, meets our most hearty approbation and entitles him to the most cordial thanks of the lovers of virtue in every community.

Fourth, That we feel under obligations, of no ordinary character, to Messrs. Scott, Campbell and Williamson, for their able defence of our young friends, knowing as they did, if any had participated, it was in the abatement of a most loathsome nuisance in which some of their associates had been entangled in the way that leads down to the chamber of death.

Sixth, That at this juncture it is highly impolitic, and what the enemy ought not to expect, for the friends of Temperance to relax their efforts, while his allies are in the field marshalling their forces and appropriating their means, a desperate struggle to prolong the malignant reign of alcohol, and to subvert the happiness of mankind.

That the editors of the Huntingdon and Holidaysburg papers, and all Temperance papers be respectfully requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting. [Signed by the officers.]

## Late and Important from Mexico.—Abdication of Santa Anna.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 25.  
By the arrival of the Orizaba, we have advices from Vera Cruz to July 22, Santa Anna left the city of Mexico on the 9th, under an escort of 2,500 men, and upon his arrival at Perote he signed his abdication of the presidency. On the 17th, he embarked at Vera Cruz, but for what place is not stated. A day or two after his leaving the city of Mexico 700 or 800 of the escort revolted, and after killing one or two officers proceeded to join the insurgents of Alvaraz.

General Carre has been appointed Provisional President, and General La Vega commander in chief of the army.

The State prisoners at the City of Mexico had been liberated, and a mob committed a number of excesses; the house of Santa Anna's mother-in-law was completely gutted in the excitement.

WHERE TO KEEP THE GREAT WHEAT CROP.—The Illinois Central Railroad Company have commenced building a granary at Chicago, which is 200 feet long, 100 wide, and more than 100 feet high. This building covers nearly half an acre, and will require about two millions of Milwaukee brick in its construction. Its capacity will be over two millions of cubic feet; so that, if filled full, it would hold more than one million six hundred thousand bushels of grain. It is, however, to be arranged with bins, &c., so as to hold about seven hundred thousand bushels. This is to be the storehouse at one end of a single railroad.—American Agriculturist.

HORRID DEATH.—David Wright, convicted of the murder of A. M. Robinson, at Columbus, Ga., committed suicide under horrible circumstances. He commenced sawing off the chain from his leg and set fire to his cell, in order to knock the jailer down and escape, when the alarm was raised. The fire, however, became too hot before he got the chain off, and he was discovered roasted to death, having crawled off as far as the chain would allow him.