

BIOGRAPHICAL.

WILLIAM WIRT

The Antimasonic candidate for the office of President of the United States, at the ensuing election, is a native of Virginia. As an accomplished orator, and as a learned and sound constitutional lawyer, he has no superior in the United States. In politics he has always been a democrat, and the personal as well as political friend of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe.

He first became known to the public beyond the limits of his native State, by the publication of the eloquent, ingenious and original work, entitled the "British Spy," which appeared about the year 1803. In 1807, his fame as an orator and lawyer, spread to every corner of the country, with the reports of the trial of Col. Burr, for treason. He was one of the counsel for the U. States on that most important trial.

In 1817, President Monroe appointed him Attorney General of the United States, which office he held during the whole of Mr. Monroe's administration. On the accession of Mr. Adams to the Presidential Chair in 1825, he continued Mr. Wirt, as Attorney General, until the end of his term, in March 1829. At the commencement of Gen. Jackson's administration, Mr. Wirt removed to Baltimore where he now resides, engaged in the industrious and arduous practice of his profession.

Mr. Wirt is a man of the most amiable and virtuous character. His manners and deportment are entirely plain and republican. He is about 57 years of age.

AMOS ELLMAKER.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

Mr. Munroe.—I send you the following biographical sketch of AMOS ELLMAKER, the Anti-Masonic Candidate for the Vice-Presidency. This sketch was published, several years since, in the Village Record, edited by Charles Miner, Esq. It appeared shortly after, and on the occasion, of Mr. Ellmaker's appointment as Attorney General of Pennsylvania, by Governor Shulze. It should be added that this was the second time the subject of the notice, had been called to that office—having held it during the administration of Governor Findlay some eight or ten years before.

I may also add, as a fact not noticed in the sketch, that, at an early period of his life, and during his residence at the seat of the State Government, Mr. Ellmaker was elected to a seat in Congress. But his attachments to his professional pursuits, and to the quiet enjoyments of private life, were understood to have interposed a barrier to his acceptance of the proffered trust. It is certain that he did not take his seat. Mr. Ellmaker is a native of Lancaster County, where he commenced the practice of law in 1810, and where, at later periods, he took a share in public concerns. During the last few years his residence has been fixed in the city of Lancaster, in whose higher courts, he enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice. Mr. Ellmaker is yet in the vigor of life—being little over 45 years of age. The sketch is understood to be from Mr. Miner's own pen. Its publication, with these additions, will perhaps serve to gratify public curiosity. It will, at least, tend to satisfy the frequent inquiries at this time directed to a NATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

From the Village Record, Sept. 1828.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The desire is universal among intelligent minds, to learn the peculiar traits of character which distinguish public men. With what lively interest do we read anecdotes of eminent characters. Of living men, on the stage of active life, it is difficult to speak as we ought. Party prejudices may deceive. Personal friendship—mislead. Narrowing the range of enquiry from nations to a State, we approach too near home to exercise perfect freedom of remark; for there are rivalries, and jealousies, which active and prominent men are always destined to encounter; and the ascription of just praise may be misinterpreted, into flattery. Nor are we exempt from the shameful and degrading delusion that our great men are somewhat inferior to the great men of other states—of Virginia and of South Carolina. So long have we permitted ourselves to think they are superior to us, that the mind really requires an effort to shake off this unjust assuage of opinion. The south speak freely of their living men, who are on the road to distinction and greatness. Virginia does them justice in early life—giving them name abroad and character at home. This partly arises from the habit which there exists of canvassing, in General Assembly; openly and freely, the merits and qualifications of men who are named for appointments.—United States' Senator—Judges—State Treasurer—Councillors—all have to undergo the terrible ordeal of public scrutiny. Opponents exhibit faults—friends speak their merits, and those who have fine points of character, have them set in bold relief; and they become greater in public estimation from the public display of their merits.

If done with care, I do not see that notices of our active, leading, distinguished men, can be injurious, or ought to be considered objectionable.

AMOS ELLMAKER, Esq. Attorney General of the Commonwealth, is one of those men, certainly extraordinary in this age, who unites the highest qualifications for public life, with the least political ambition. When a student, Mr. Ellmaker was noted for uncommon devotion to his books.—Munroe could not allure him to idleness; idleness to him had no pleasure. But

though Bacon and Blackstone—Coke and Chitty, and other luminaries of the law, might occupy the time usually devoted by students to the attainment of their profession, the hours appropriated by other young men to relaxation and amusement, were by him occupied in literary and scientific studies. Natural and moral philosophy were those in which he most delighted. Classical literature came in as a relief to severer reading. On being admitted to the bar, the profession found in him a sound, well-read lawyer, of rare endowments, and unusual literary attainments. With out seeking practice—practice flowed in upon him. Without soliciting offices—offices high and honorable, have constantly solicited his acceptance. The duties of the public stations he has filled, have been performed to universal satisfaction. To say that his principles are sound, and his integrity pure, is to pay but the ordinary compliment due to public men in our State; but the urbanity of manners and delicacy of feeling which distinguish Mr. Ellmaker, add new lustre to the stern virtue which adorn his character. Studios of retirement; fond of literary and philosophical ease, he never courts the angry debate, or voluntarily throws himself into the political arena; but a thorough Republican—an ardent friend to liberty and the rights of man, private inclination would not stand a moment in the way of public duty, when the general welfare should, in his judgment, call for active personal exertions. Distinguished already, it will probably be his lot to act a yet more conspicuous part in public affairs. We know that good men intimately acquainted with him, look to Mr. Ellmaker as among the citizens of highest promise in the State. At the repeated solicitations of Gov. Shulze, he accepted the present appointment. A pattern of public and private virtue, he sets an example to young men, worthy of their strictest attention. No more might have been said with truth. I could not say less. Nothing would be more unexpected to him than this notice. Should it meet his eye, the writer craves his indulgence. His justification is, that public men belong to the public.

Mr. Ellmaker was twice tendered a seat on the Supreme Bench of Pennsylvania—the last time by Gov. Shulze. He was also solicited by President Monroe to accept the Secretaryship of the Navy.

Mr. Wirt's Nomination.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

Mr. Munroe.—Relying on your candor, I solicit a space in your columns, to correct a misapprehension in the National Journal of Friday last. Speaking of the nomination of Mr. Wirt, by the National Antimasonic Convention, that paper says: "The reply of Mr. Wirt was not received by the Convention until about an hour before their final adjournment; and it remains to be credited, the delay is attributable to the great difficulty which the managers on the part of the Convention experienced in obtaining from Mr. Wirt, such modifications of his original views, as would make his communication palatable to the members of that body. In the shape in which it was finally handed over to the Committee, it was far from receiving the hearty approbation of some whose counsels have exercised so important an influence on the sentiments and resolutions of the Convention."

I did not notice this remark until to-day, and as it would give me much pleasure to see the Presidential canvass conducted by the press on manly and elevated grounds, I take this opportunity to correct the manifest errors, in the above paragraph. It appears to me that no candid man, acquainted with the character of Mr. Wirt, and his uniform freedom from every thing like political intrigue, will, on reflection, believe it possible that he could be managed, dishonorably, or that he would submit to any guidance but his own sense of right, arising from honest conviction. But if it be the misfortune of any one, so imperfectly to appreciate the merits of a man as unspotted in public and private life, as is WILLIAM WIRT, I will give him the means of correcting his error by a statement of facts, for the correctness of which I leave my name with you as a pledge that they shall be substantiated, if called in question.

Although many members of the Antimasonic Convention had for some time previous to their arrival in this city, looked to Mr. Wirt as the man best qualified, under all circumstances, to unite the opposition to the existing Administration, by presenting a middle ground, on which the true friends of the best interests of the country might concentrate their patriotic energies, yet no suggestion, or interchange of views to that effect, had been made, nor was it possible that Mr. Wirt could have entertained the slightest expectation of receiving a nomination from the quarter, whence it came. Little minds, utterly incapable of grasping the strong points of a case presented for immediate consideration, may marvel at any one coming to a conclusion, upon the exhibition of facts and arguments, which are entirely convincing in themselves, where candor and intelligence are only required to admit their force. But it often happens that decisions of great importance are made by such men as Marshall, Story and others, almost by intuition, upon new evidence and new arguments, presented for their prompt consideration. I am therefore no more surprised, that (with a mind predisposed to receive the truth, and a firmness and uprightness that would shrink from no avowal of an honest conviction,) Mr. Wirt should have arrived at the conclusion he did, in reference to the injurious and anti-republican tendency of Masonry, than I am at the decisions on abstruse points of law and elaborate

statements of cases, which are so often made by eminent jurists. There is much less difficulty in fully comprehending, almost at a glance, the nature and merits of the argument between Masonry and Anti-Masonry. How long, for instance, would it take for such men as Marshall, Story, Webster and Wirt, to form a just opinion upon the doctrines of nullification, if presented to them, for the first time? I can see no possible reason why they should not as readily arrive at a just conclusion on the principles and practices of Masonry, if they would devote equal attention for the same period to the subject. Mr. Wirt's opinions were formed on this last topic, and fully expressed, before these opinions could possibly have been conjectured by him to have any bearing upon his political relations. Let any man point out a single act in the public or private character of William Wirt, that can warrant a conclusion that his opinions were ever formed or avowed, merely with a view to personal advancement! No one, who has the least pretensions to candor, will dare attempt so hopeless a task. How unjust then, is it to insinuate that Mr. Wirt was managed in expressing his opinion on Masonry. I repeat, these opinions were as well known and as fully avowed as they now are, before the nomination of Mr. Wirt had been considered as a probable event, by a single member of the Convention, though many ardently desired such a result. They were avowed too, before the meeting of the Convention, when it was generally understood, and particularly by Mr. Wirt himself, that Judge McLean would probably receive the nomination, his conditional declination of that nomination not then being made known; and even at the time when Mr. Wirt, in a preliminary meeting received the ballots of a large majority of the Convention, it was believed, and was so urged by friends of McLean, that he (Mr. McLean) would not decline, if nominated. The opinions of Mr. Wirt on this subject, were therefore fully understood, before he had received an intimation of the possibility of his nomination, and his reply to the nomination on Wednesday, went no further than did his opinions freely expressed in a private manner, previous to that occurrence. Now then as to the alleged modification and management, of which the National Journal speaks so sagely. Mr. Wirt was waited on informally, with an intimation relative to his nomination, about 11 o'clock, Wednesday morning. His reply was, that if the Convention should see fit to nominate him, he should frankly state his views of the principles on which such a nomination should be founded, and would throw back upon the Convention the consideration whether his views accorded with theirs, leaving the Convention entirely at liberty to change the nomination if they saw fit. This was reported to the meeting, and on that was predicated the nomination made by the Convention, leaving Mr. Wirt entirely at liberty to present his own view of the case, and the Convention equally free to pass upon it. Every man who can appreciate an open and honorable course in politics, must, it seems to me, understand this proceeding as a full exemplification of that principle. The nomination of Mr. Wirt, was made unanimously in Convention, about 11 o'clock, and communicated to him about one o'clock, on Wednesday. The Committee who waited on him were Mr. Rutherford of New Jersey, (one of the triers of Washington, for whom he voted as elector, at the first choice of that distinguished man to the Presidency.) Mr. Rutherford is no body's manager. Neither are Messrs. Sloane and Elder, who constituted the rest of the Committee. They immediately returned to the Convention, with information that Mr. Wirt would transmit his answer in writing at 5 o'clock. A further postponement became necessary from the simple fact that Mr. Wirt had not had sufficient time to prepare his answer, and have it copied.—This copy was placed in the hands of the Committee by half past seven o'clock; and without any interview with Mr. Wirt, by a single member of the Convention, or the slightest "modification of original views," was, to the personal knowledge of the writer of this, presented to the Convention, immediately on their meeting at 8 o'clock in the evening, which was at least three hours instead of "one," "before their final adjournment." The "rumor," therefore, whose hundred tongues had filled the respectable ear of the editor of the Journal, with strange fantasies, was no kin to the family of truth.

Any literary or thinking man, who reflects upon the importance of such a document as was expected from Mr. Wirt, involving one of the most important acts in his whole life, must find a sufficient explanation in the nature of the case, for the delay of six hours, (including the dining hour,) without conjecturing unworthy motives or management, to be the cause. Few men in this country could, under like circumstances, have accomplished what Mr. Wirt did, in so short a time. The only management was a request from the Committee that he would reply that day if possible, the Convention being desirous of adjourning. Mr. Wirt's own good sense, nice discrimination and munificent intellect, were the only managers that modified his reply. The Journal is equally unfortunate as to the impression that reply made on the Convention. If he were present and could hear, he must have perceived how entirely satisfactory it was, from the enthusiastic manner in which it was received. Not a member dissented from it, though Mr. Wirt had restored the nomination fully to the Convention, who might have rescinded it with perfect propriety, had they been so disposed, and we undertake to say that no public bo-

dy ever received an expression of opinion, with more entire and cordial satisfaction, than the reply of Mr. Wirt was accepted by the Convention. Let the Journal have the candor to publish the entire reply, its readers will then understand it. I will not follow the Journal in other equally erroneous views of facts, given in the article I have quoted from, for I have already occupied more space than I intended. Yours, &c.

One of the Secretaries of the N. A. Convention. Baltimore, Oct. 2, 1831.

UNITED STATES BANK.

We have read with much satisfaction the triennial report of the Directors of the United States Bank. It is clear and deeply interesting, proving that we are all indebted for our present sound currency to the exertions of this Bank. To those who remember the pleasure of losing from 25 to 50 cents on every dollar received from a distant State (and who does not remember this?) no other argument is required to prove the value and utility of the United States Bank to the people of this country.

It was interesting to remark in the report that Pennsylvania holds more stock than any other State—her citizens holding 52,638 shares—the next is South Carolina, holding 40,674—the third is Maryland, having 34,503, while New York, the fourth, holds but 32,903. In solid capital, Pennsylvania continues to be number one. It is a little remarkable too, that Pennsylvania, the original Jackson State, should represent the most stock of the Bank which President Jackson wishes to crush.—Saturday Bulletin.

FREDERICK, Sept. 28.

It affords us unmixed pain to be compelled to record an occurrence which is calculated to excite the most serious reflections in this community. On Sunday morning last, Mr. Noah Phillips, one of the most respectable inhabitants of this county, and his family, consisting of his wife, son, daughter and niece, found themselves suddenly indisposed, from the effects of something which they had eaten at breakfast. A physician being called, at once announced to them the appalling fact that they had been poisoned. An examination was immediately made, and it was discovered that the seeds of the common Gymnopus-weed, or Stramonium, had been ground up with their coffee, and its deadly properties imbibed by the whole family. By the energetic use of strong medicines, the poisonous matter was soon removed from the stomach; and we are happy to learn that the whole family is now in a fair way to recover. There is no doubt that the deadly preparation was the work of the negroes belonging to Mr. Phillips, four of whom have been committed to prison on suspicion.—Examiner.

THE MISSIONARIES.—The Augusta Chronicle of September 21st says, "A gentleman who arrived in this city last evening from Athens, informs us that it was currently reported and believed there when he left, that several of the Missionaries indicted for trespassing on the Cherokee territory, about six or ten, had been sentenced to the Penitentiary, by Judge Clayton, at the Gwinnet or Hall Superior Court, probably the former."

From the Chambersburg Republican.

THE LADY SHERBROKE—ONCE MORE.

When we gave publicity to a note of some particulars relative to the trial of the Captain of this vessel, &c., we thought we were doing no more than anticipating information which would unquestionably be confirmed by the papers of the neighborhood. Every circumstance under which the information was received, was calculated to give it credit, and when we saw the story pronounced a "fabrication," by a New York paper, we felt both mortification and regret at having given it currency, although it was but one of those errors into which any one may be once in a while led, despite of his care to avoid them. We observe, however, in the following article exact confirmation of one part of our informant's story; at least, that which relates to an aged witness who had lost his wife and family; and it is further proved that the captain if not tried and convicted as has been represented, was guilty of conduct scarcely less culpable than that imputed.

THE LADY SHERBROKE.—Eight of the unfortunate passengers of the Lady Sherbrooke, which lately suffered shipwreck on the coast of Newfoundland, presented themselves yesterday to the Emigrant Society of this city, to be forwarded to Upper Canada. One of them, a man about 60 years of age, lost his wife and all his children, seven in number. Another had two saved, of a family, which, including relatives, consisting of 16 persons. He had gone to the bottom with his family, but being an expert diver, rose to the surface and swam on the shore. His son escaped similarly. His wife, who perished, had one hundred and twenty sovereigns sewed into parts of her dress. Those passengers asserted that the Captain and Mate were both in a state of beastly intoxication; the Captain, particularly, who had to be carried to bed by three men, on the evening of the fatal calamity, and that the Mate was on the deck about 10 o'clock, quite unfit for the performance of his duty. It was a dreadful thing that the care of so many lives should have been entrusted to such persons. It will be remembered that nearly 300 souls perished by this shipwreck.

Montreal Vind.

JACKSON, Tenn. Sept. 10.

Unnatural and Horrid Murder.—On Wednesday night last, a negro woman, the property of Col. Thos. Loflin, near this place, destroyed three of her children by

drowning; one a boy aged about seven years, and two girls, one an infant at the breast. On the evening of that day she had been chastised by her master, the first time it is said, that he had ever corrected her. At a late hour of the night, she, according to her own acknowledgments, deliberately took them to a pool of water, one at a time, and held them in until life became extinct. In the act of taking her fourth child for the same purpose, she was discovered by her husband, when an alarm was made. The drowned children were found about two hours after the act was committed but every exertion to resuscitate them proved ineffectual. The woman stands committed for trial.

BURIED ALIVE!—On Thursday afternoon as Mr. David Stevens of this town, was at the bottom of a well, 20 feet deep, in Plainstow, and about to stone it, the earth caved in upon him, and covered him to the depth of about a foot and a half, where he lay between four and five hours! Notwithstanding a considerable number of people were most of the time assembled round the well—no one dared to descend! He would probably have suffocated, had not a boy at the first, gone down and removed the earth from his head. Mr. Stevens was not materially injured.—Haverhill (Mass.) Gazette.

In the Washington Globe an official letter is published from the Consul of the U. States at the island of Guadaloupe, which gives the information that the Governor of that Island has determined to admit three thousand barrels of Indian Corn Meal from America, subject to a duty of two francs a barrel, which shall be divided as follows:—

- 800 to Point a Petre,
700 to Bassa Terre,
500 to Marie Galante,
500 to Moule,
500 to Saint Martin.

The Governor's proclamation is dated August 10th, 1831.

Another Death by Violence.—The Lexington Reporter of the twenty-first inst. says,—"We understand that a Mr. Robinson was lately shot and killed by Dr. Pierce, the member of the Legislature elect from Russell county in this State. The circumstances are of the most painful nature, such as need not be detailed, as they relate to an aggravated case of seduction, which resulted in the death of the guilty individual."

The following account of a hail storm in this District, has been handed to us from so respectable a source that, extraordinary as it appears, we give it insertion:—

On Thursday morning the 30th ult. between 5 and 6 o'clock a thunder storm passed over part of the Seignior of St. Giles, attended with hail and rain: the hail-stones were of the most extraordinary size, one of them weighed, full twenty minutes after it had fallen, was found to weigh then upwards of 3 of a pound; a calf was knocked down, and two persons received several contusions, fortunately the storm was of but short duration. The two farm houses belonging to Mr. George Arnold, had between fifty and sixty panes broken, and the most part of the houses had a number broken more or less.—Quebec Mercury.

DR. J. GILBERT,

OFFERS FOR SALE,

At the old stand a few doors South of Mr. James Gourley's Tavern, Baltimore Street, Gettysburg,

A FRESH AND GENERAL SUPPLY OF

DRUGS AND

MEDICINES,

Paints & Dye-Stuffs.

AMONG WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING:

DRUGS & MEDICINES.

- Acid Sulphuric, Mustard Seed, Nitric, Nutmeg, Muratic, Oil Wormseed, Tartaric, Cinnamon, Lemon, Cloves, Ether, Castor, Assafetida, Sweet, Antimony, Cubeb, Balsam Capiva, Mint, Blue Pill, Juniper, Carb Ferri, Opium, Rhubarb, Ammonia, Red Precipitate, Magnesia, Snake Root, Calomel, Sarsaparilla, Cream Tartar, Sal Ammoniac, Camphor, Sals Ephem, Calcined Magnesia, Glauber, Flor. Sulphur, Senna, Gum Guaiac, Tartar Emetic, " Arabic, Venice Turpentine, " Draggon, " Varnish Copal, Manna, " Black oil

PAINTS.

- White Lead, Terra Do Sienna, Red Lead, Chromo Yellow, Spanish Brown, " Green, Venetian Red, Rose Pink, Lutharge, Prussian Blue, Burnt Umber, Lampblack

DYE STUFFS.

- Logwood chippod, Indigo, Redwood, Alum, Madder, Fustic, Copppers, Camwood, Red Saunders, Turmeric, " &c. &c. &c.

PATENT MEDICINES.

- Bateians Drops, Medicamentum, Balsam De Malta, Whites Tooth ache drops, " of Life, Golden Tincture, British oil, Pills Leo's, Cephalic Snuff, " Dyo's, Elixor Paragoric, " Lyon's, " Vitriol, " Fisher's, Eye-water, " Hooper's, Essence Cinnamon, " Anderson's, " Peppermint, " Quinins, " Lemon, Opodeldoe, Godfrey's Cordial, " &c. &c. &c.

The above articles he will sell as low for cash, as can be had at any other shop in the place. September 20, 1831.