

THE STAR.

MR. RUSH'S FIFTH LETTER.

The following Letter was addressed to JOHN C. SPENCER, Esq. of New York, by Mr. RUSH, giving his views on the nominations made by the U. S. Anti-Masonic Convention last September.

YORK, (Pa.) Nov. 8th, 1831.

DEAR SIR.—I very much regretted that I lost the pleasure of seeing yourself and friends from New York, who did me the favor of a call as you passed through this place on your way to Baltimore. I came down stairs a moment after receiving your cards, and was truly sorry to have missed the opportunity of taking you all by the hand.

Had you again taken this route on your return from Baltimore, as I cherished the hope you would do, it would have given me the opportunity of saying to you in person, what I have been happy to say to others, whenever I have the opportunity: viz: how highly I was pleased with what you did in the convention. A better selection than Mr. Wirt, could not in my opinion be made.— With genius, as well as high cultivation, the true elements of greatness unite in him. It is known to me from the highest source of information, that when Mr. Jefferson was about to retire from the Presidency, to be succeeded by Mr. Madison, he expressed a strong wish that Mr. Wirt would consent to come into the House of Representatives of the United States, that he might assume the ascendancy in that body, and with it the influence in our national affairs then growing critical, to which his commanding abilities and probity would have destined him. But, little ambitious of public honors, the road to which then lay open to him under auspices the most brilliant, he declined.— His services during twelve years in the executive department of the government since, has identified him with the course of public policy pursued during those years, whilst to no part of it does he stand in the attitude of a partisan.

It is for the same reason that I like his Anti-Masonry. He has taken it up as a statesman and patriot, not as a partisan and persecutor. He was started at seeing the administration of the laws stopped by the secret power of the Masonic Institution, and felt at once the duty of seeing them restored to their supremacy. He knew nothing of the fatal agency of this Institution in robbing the laws of their efficacy, until the assembling of your convention at Baltimore. How should he have known it? Did the press in Baltimore where he lived, or in Washington to which he sometimes went, inform him? Never. You and I know, you better than I, that it was simply because the old established newspapers of the land refused to insert any intimation to publish the facts brought to light by trials in the courts of New York demonstrative of the dangers of Masonry, (shame on their ignoble fears of this institution,) that Anti-Masonic newspapers were set up for the special purpose of publishing them. And was Mr. Wirt, busied in the highest walks of an exalted profession, which he exalted still higher by his genius, eloquence and worth, to hunt these up, hundreds of miles off and most of them in the interior, whilst the boasted sentinels all round him—those sentinels that seldom failed to serve up to him the particulars of every case of the least note in the police annals of Bow-street, or the Mansion House in London—were silent? These vigilant sentinels indeed, would perhaps admit the mere word anti-masonry into their columns, but most commonly with a sting at its "fanaticism," lest they should be thought weak-minded. But from which of them would he have learned those details of the Morgan trials that go to show, in the words of his excellent letter, that masonic oaths "are not considered by those who impose and take them as mere idle and unmeaning words, but as solemn obligations, to be practically enforced;" that the audacious conspiracy against the life of a citizen "was not, as has been commonly supposed, the act of a few ignorant men alone, but was engendered in the lodges themselves, enforced under their direction and supported at their expense; the conspiracy embracing within its sweep men of all degrees, with too much reason to believe that the secret energy of the masonic spirit had entered and polluted even the temple of Justice; and with the most demonstrative proof that the persons who had entered into these unhallowed oaths, considered their allegiance to the Lodges as of higher obligation than their allegiance to the laws of their country;" from which of them could he have learned these things, or any of them? From none, I confidently answer, that he either saw or had an opportunity of seeing. When the lights of your convention brought these convictions home to him in ways too authentic to be refuted, his mind, accustomed to investigate, weigh and decide—a mind not to be deluded by fallacies; but able to see truth, and not afraid to speak it—did not hesitate to pronounce such an institution "at war with the fundamental principles of the social compact, and a wicked conspiracy against the laws of God and man;" and therefore "to be put down."

It is said that for all this, he is still a mason, and that we have got a mason for our candidate. It may be so. All governments have their own laws, and so has the government of masonry. The latter can execute them too, which is more than can be said of the government of New York, at present; for you must pardon me for so speaking of your great State, with a population already nearly equaling that of the province of Holland, in the day of all its grandeur. The British government held all our fathers to be British subjects long after the declaration of independence; up indeed to the peace of 1763; for we know that it was only then that

our independence was acknowledged by Britain. Mr. Wirt has got himself into this sort of dilemma. He has taken up arms against masonry, but what of that? He is nothing but a rebel. Some British jurists even hold that all the anti-masonic good British subjects to this day. By this doctrine our President Jackson is one, and the venerable Carroll into the bargain. This British doctrine of perpetual allegiance mainly drew us into a year's entanglement of imprisonment, in 1812. It was a sovereign right, a sovereign claim, that Britain could not forego. So Masonry, like a true sovereign, also sets up this sovereign claim. The government of the United States, unfettered by feudal maxims, we are taught to believe will allow expatriation; but once a mason always a mason, it seems, unless they expel you for un-masonic conduct; which, (be it remembered,) to be leagued in with murderers, sly nor, for Masons convicted of this petty kind of business in Morgan's case, are still retained in the lodges. You cannot shake off your allegiance. You cannot resign of your own accord, as I have come to learn latterly, in whatever decorous and parliamentary terms you may lay your resignation at the feet of this lord paramount. This would be to leave you too much to the exercise of your own free agency, should you happen to change your mind after having for once in your life put on the livery of the lodge; and if you arraign it, O! if you arraign it, for an outrage tenfold worse than any single one Britain ever committed against us, why what a wretch you are, what an apostate, what a perjured traitor, what a vile rebel, and I know not how much in addition that might be culled from the courtly vocabulary of masonic vengeance. This is Mr. Wirt's predicament, at the present juncture. Such is the manner in which the champions of this Order, or their bottle holders, insult the good sense of the community; such, some of the fruits of its wild and hideous oaths.— They would excite nothing but the superlative, unmingled derision of all sensible men, were it not for the tragic consequences to which they lead. We may laugh at a conclave of mummers, dressed up in their antics; but we cannot laugh when we see it become a deliberative assembly for the shedding of human blood. It is then time to be roused to action.

On the point of Masonic oaths, I must beg you to turn to Livy 10th book, section 28. Reading him a few evenings ago, I was much amused with falling upon a passage, the whole of which I would copy, but that it is too long. It is one in which he describes the linen legion of the Samnites. From this legion those who contend for the antiquity of masonry may if they think fit, date its origin. It may at least supply their antiquarian researches with some good hints, for although not making quite such a stretch into backward time as the days of king Solomon, it leaps over John the Baptist. The Samnites being at war with the Romans, assembled their whole force at Aquilena. A piece of ground in the middle of the camp was enclosed with hurdles and boards, and covered over head with a linen cloth, the sides being all of an equal length. Within this enclosure sacrifices were performed, according to directions read out of an old linen book. When these were finished, the General ordered a beeble to summon every one of those who were most highly distinguished by their birth or conduct.— Besides solemnities calculated to impress the mind with religious awe, there were altars erected, about which lay the victim slain, and centurions stood around with their swords drawn. The soldier was led up to the altars, rather like a victim than a performer in the ceremony and was bound by an oath not to divulge what he should see and hear in that place. He was then compelled to swear in a dreadful kind and form, containing exhortations on his own person, on his family, and race, if he did not go to battle withersoever the commanders should lead; and if either he himself fled from the field, or in case he should see any other flying, if he did not immediately kill him.— At first, some refusing to take the dreadful oath, were put to death round the altar, and their mangled remains lying among the carcasses of the victims, served as a warning to others not to refuse. At length the requisite number was obtained, and this legion, says Livy, sixteen thousand strong, was called the linen legion, from the covering of the enclosure. Its soldiers were furnished with painted and gilt shields, and plumed helmets. The Romans laughed at their empty parade, and were horror-struck at their abominable oaths and sacrifices, polluted as the latter were with human blood mingled with that of cattle; and under Lucius Papius Cursor, the renowned Roman leader, made quick work with the "linen legion;" part was cut to pieces and part put to flight.

May this prefigure the defeat of Masonry at the polls, under Wirt, as our Papius Cursor; for surely it is as ridiculous by its empty parades, alike odious by its abominable oaths, and has alike been polluted with human blood. In my opinion, we could not have a better leader. I wholly mistake his character if he be not found as resolute and undaunted, as he has heretofore been unobtrusive. Yet how is this accomplished and gifted man already treated? Liberal, candid, unanswerable, as are the sentiments of his letter, how has Masonry begun to deal with them? Reason away their force, it cannot; but what epithets are too coarse, what denunciations too bitter for it to employ against their author? This conduct is, in unison with the fierce and intolerant spirit of the order; with its exclusiveness; with its anti-social pledges, under sanctions both unnatural and unlawful to a common support and to common resentments. That men of refined and elevated minds who may be Masons, act under such pernicious influences, nobody will pretend; but who will

pretend that the great bulk of the Masons of our country are made up of such men, or that it is they who give impulse to the order? It is notoriously otherwise, for men of this cast have least to do with Masonry, even if Masons.—It "drops from their minds," as it did from our Wirt's and from Washington's: who did not enter a Lodge, I believe, for thirty years. Such men are rarely, very rarely, of its councils; they become shy, though nominally they may be on its lists. Let Masonry alone, bow down to it, permit it to do as it pleases without impeachment of its ways; and it will be at peace with you; but when its portentous oaths acting upon ferocious or inflated bigots, become the direct means of tremendous crime, we are not to raise a noisy voice against its dangers, but at the peril of proscription! We must not discuss the question of its demerits; all mouths must be closed, and peaceably to refuse our preference in the ballot boxes to those who cling to an institution that in a long and fairly contested battle with the laws, has absolutely overcome them, and to this hour remains in possession of the victory—is persecution! We must merely leave the institution to go down under the operation of a quiet, harmless, unspeaking, public opinion! Admirable theory this, for all who belong to the school of the murderer Thurtell, or the pirate Gibbs! Offend as much as you please, and with the more enormity the better; we visit you with no disqualification, no penalty, no act of any kind only just leave you to your own reflections, and the gentle, silent, corrective of public opinion—go on, we have no fears that our clique will hold together against this corrective! This is the enlarged and philanthropic theory that pronounces the degree of frank injustice, even "fanaticism," upon all things but Anti-Masonry; it would have any thing but that; it would not for the world have the Lodge pursued as an offender, or those who uphold it, not voted into office; it would leave it to die of itself, by an *anthanasia*, a sort of *easy death*, such as Hume predicted for the exit of the British constitution! I dislike the cant of puritanism, and all cant; but the cant of Masonry and its *neutral auxiliaries*, is the worst we have ever had. They give us cant about its religion and about its charity, in the midst of the terrible inroads upon the peace of society, and the authority and sanctity of our jurisprudence, of which its furious and misleading spirit has demonstrably been the parent.

Let us then, with Wirt as our leader, dedicate ourselves to its overthrow. Preposterously confounding all distinctions, it tells us that it is no more responsible for the murder of Morgan, or for his blood being still unavenged, than the catholic religion is responsible for the crimes of the Inquisition. But let us put down their sophistry on the election ground, as it has already been a thousand times answered in argument, and by facts. They say that our cause is a narrow one; too narrow to form the basis of a party that can be national. And is it in the country where the stamp act was resisted, and the tea tax, that we hear this language? Too narrow! the laws have been prostrated, they are still under foot, they cannot be executed, it is Masonic oaths and penalties that cause this disgraceful spectacle, we have proved this in a manner clear as light, we want room to remove the superincumbent pressure, for Masons will not do it themselves by giving up their charters, which we should prefer; this is our great, our only aim; we want to raise up the laws from their fallen condition, we want to take Masonry off of them, to haul it away now and forever for so unparalleled, so absorbing affront to the body politic. Die of itself! what tyrant ever gave up power, until forced to do it! No, it must be expelled by the spirit and perseverance of the people; it must be done at the polls; there is no other way; it is reasonable, it is just, it is indispensable, that we should so expel it; it is an imperious duty, as well as a constitutional right. The press warts its claims, or bent upon nothing but party or personal squabbles, blindly overlooks all principle at stake on the Antimasonic cause, and the real facts on which it is founded. The people must rise above the press, and make it blush for its past subserviency, and its past apathy. The civil magistracy must be restored to its efficiency, for five years ingloriously lost among a people boasting of their freedom. Call such a cause narrow! Why its foundations are as broad as the civilized world. No question of tariff or anti-tariff, nullification or anti-nullification, has half its breadth, or strength or dignity. These are floating topics, questions of what sort of laws we are to have. Our cause presents a question of whether we are to have a master over the laws; for Masonry now stands triumphant over them. This is our cause, plain, simple, majestic. It is a cause that in the best days Rome would have rallied every citizen to its support, and in the better days of our Republic, would have asserted its rightful ascendancy over every other, until triumph was secured.

Your Convention, was fortunate, if I may venture an opinion on this point too, in fixing upon Mr. Ellmaker as a candidate for the Vice Presidency. In Pennsylvania we know him well. He is a man of abilities and learning; possessing innate strength and excellence; prompt, energetic, yet calm minded. To the nation he is not yet known, but will be appreciated when he is known. He was one of General Jackson's prominent supporters, but left that party at its height of success in Pennsylvania, to aid in putting down an institution that had put down the laws. He is of inflexible honesty; in his opinions very decided, in his conduct, liberal, forbearing, and just. He has never sought, but on the contrary avoided public distinction; when within reach, though so eminently worthy of it. Classically educated, he is a kind of literature. This, in con-

junction with his legal acquirements and pursuits, has placed him high in the circles of private and professional life; which hitherto has lifted up the measure of his ambition. May the theatre of his exertions be enlarged and his country have the benefit of his talents and virtues.

Apologizing for so long a letter, I remain dear sir, with great respect and esteem, very faithfully yours,

RICHARD RUSH.

J. C. SPENCER, Esq.

CONGRESS.

Twenty-Second Congress—First Session.

SATURDAY, Dec. 31.

In the Senate, yesterday, the bills for the relief of Hartwell Vick, and to establish an additional land office in the State of Indiana, were read a third time and passed. The bill introduced, on leave, by Mr. Benton, to abolish the duty on alum salt, having been read the second time, an interesting debate arose on the question, whether it should be referred to the Committee on Finance, or the Committee on Manufactures. Messrs. Benton, Hayne, and Smith, supported the question of reference to the former Committee, and Messrs. Clay and Dickerson, spoke in favor of referring the bill to the Committee on Manufactures. On taking the question of reference to the Committee on Finance, it was decided in the negative—yeas 17, nays 22, and the bill was then referred, without a division, to the Committee on Manufactures. The Senate spent some time in the consideration of executive business.

In the House of Representatives, petitions and resolutions were, as usual, introduced and referred. The proposition for the distribution of the public lands, was further discussed until the close of the hour. Mr. McDuffie reported the Indian and fortification appropriation bills, which were severally read twice, and referred to a Committee of the whole on the State of the Union. A variety of private bills were voted upon, and the House adjourned till Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 4.

The Senate, yesterday, transacted a considerable portion of legislative business. Several petitions and resolutions were submitted, and many bills passed through their first and second readings, and were referred. The bill regulating duties and fixing the compensation of pursers in the Navy, reported by the Committee on Naval Affairs, was considered and postponed to and made the order of the day for Tuesday next. The Senate spent some time in the consideration of Executive business.

Many bills were reported from the committees and acted upon, in the House of Representatives. Nearly 40 resolutions were submitted, among which were a series by Mr. Ward, on the subject of an improvement in the condition of the Army by providing for giving the soldiers an education. The resolutions were agreed to, and the subject was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Pendleton introduced several resolutions on the subject of regulating the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the United States, in criminal cases in the courts of the States; declaring also the provisions of the 25th section of the Judiciary act applicable to final judgments in the criminal courts of the States, and making other provisions for the enforcement of the requisite processes under the act.

Upon division, by yeas and nays, the House however laid the proposition upon the table by a vote of 99 to 89. Mr. Mercer proposed a resolution for applying part of the proceeds of the public land, after the national debt shall have been extinguished, to the purpose of the removal of the free negroes to Africa; but before the sense of the House was taken on the subject, an adjournment took place.

THURSDAY, Jan. 5.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Benton, on leave, introduced a bill to reduce the duty on Indian blankets and other Indian goods, which was read and ordered to a second reading. After the presentation of petitions, and second reading of bills, the bill providing for the settlement of the claims of certain States for interest on advances made by them to the United States, during the late war, was ordered to a second reading.— The following bills were passed: The bill for the relief of John Proctor; the bill for the relief of John B. Taylor; the bill for the relief of Henry H. Tuckerman; the bill for the relief of Robertson and Barnwell; and the bill for the relief of William J. Quincy and Charles E. Quincy. After spending a short time in the consideration of Executive business, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, among the resolutions introduced, was one by Mr. Davis, of South Carolina, calling on the Committee on Foreign Relations to inquire into the expediency of reducing the number of our Ministers resident abroad, above the rank of Charge d'Affaires, to three, viz: to England, France, and Russia. It was adopted, on a division, by a vote of—yeas 89. Mr. Drayton submitted a resolution on the subject of increasing the pay and emoluments of naval officers so as to place them on an equality with officers of similar rank in the army, which was also agreed to. Mr. Drayton likewise introduced a bill, from the Military Committee, to increase the pay of armorers in the army of the United States, which was read twice and committed to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union. The resolution of Mr. Blair, of Tennessee, was together with the amendments, laid upon the table, on motion of Mr. Wickliffe. The remainder of the sitting was occupied in the consideration of private bills.

FRIDAY, Jan. 6.

In the Senate, yesterday, the following

late grew out of Mr. Benton's motion to refer the bill reducing the duty on Indian blankets and other Indian goods to the Committee on Finance, and Mr. Dickerson's motion to refer the same bill to the Committee on Manufactures, in which Messrs. Benton, Dickerson, Brown, Buckner, Tyler, Clay and Smith, participated. The motion of reference to this Committee on Finance was lost, yeas 17, nays 25, and to the Committee on Manufactures prevailed, yeas 25, nays 18. The following bills were read the third time and passed: The bill for the relief of William Forsyth; the bill for the relief of Charles Cassedy; the bill for the relief of Lewis Anderson; and the bill providing for the settlement of the claims of certain States for interest on advances to the United States made by them during the late war. Several petitions and resolutions were presented, and several bills from the House passed through their first and second readings and were referred. After spending a short time in Executive business, the Senate adjourned over to Monday next.

In the House of Representatives, the resolution of Mr. Heister calling upon the Post-master General for information, and his opinions on the subject of reducing or abolishing the postage on newspapers and periodical publications, was taken up, and after some discussion laid on the table, upon a statement that the question was then under the consideration of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and would speedily be reported to the House. A resolution offered by Mr. Williams to rescind the rule of the House which allots only one hour of the day to the consideration of reports and resolutions, was, in a modified shape, adopted. The consideration of the South Carolina claims' bill was resumed; and an animated debate followed, in the course of which Messrs. Adams, McDuffie, Spright, Everett of Mass. Burgess, Williams, Drayton, Reed of Mass. Davis of Mass. severally addressed the House. A motion to commit the bill to the Committee of Claims was negatived without a division; and at 4 o'clock the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, Jan. 7.

The Senate did not sit yesterday. In the House of Representatives, Gen. Hawkins, of North Carolina, appeared and was qualified, and took his seat. A number of bills were reported, and among them the naval appropriation bill for the year 1832, which was read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Kerr, from the committee on the Territories, reported a bill establishing the Territorial Government of Ouiseconsin, which also was read a first and a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole on the state of the Union. The report of the committee of Claims on the South Carolina claims was ordered to be printed. The remainder of the day was devoted to private business.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Session of 1831—1832.

STATE LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, January 3d, at 10 A. M. the Speaker took the chair, but a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum not appearing, adjourned till to-morrow.

On the 4th a quorum of members appeared in their seats. A number of petitions were presented. The Secretary of the Commonwealth delivered a message from the Governor, communicating a report of the canal commissioners, relative to the exhaustion of the funds appropriated for the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road; 500 copies whereof in English, and 300 in German, were, on motion of Mr. Packer, ordered to be printed. A letter was received from a committee of the military convention, setting in this town inviting the members of the Senate to seats within the bar of that convention.—Mr. Morris offered a resolution directing the clerk to purchase two copies of the Pennsylvania Blackstone; which was agreed to. Mr. Kingland offered a resolution, inviting the officers and members of the military convention now sitting in this town, to seats within the bar of the Senate, which was unanimously agreed to.

In the House, January 3d, at 10 A. M. the Speaker took the chair, but a majority of the whole number of members, not being present, adjourned till to-morrow.

On the 4th, a quorum of members appeared in their seats. A great number of petitions were presented, and among them one from Schuylkill county, for the incorporation of the York and Maryland line rail road company, a letter was received from a committee of the military convention, now sitting in this town, inviting the members of the House to take seats within the bar of the convention. The bill to incorporate the York and Maryland line rail road company, was considered in committee of the whole. Mr. Felton in the chair; and on motion of Mr. Donnel the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again. Several other bills were considered in committee of the whole. Mr. Fuller offered a resolution, about the law of bail, which was adopted. Mr. Vansant offered a resolution, inviting the officers and members of the military convention, to seats within the bar of the House, which was unanimously adopted.—Chronicle.

On the 1st inst. while a daughter of Mr. Stephen Glazier, of Lincoln, near Fredericton, New Brunswick, aged seven years, was engaged in cooking, her clothes caught fire, and although her screaming brought her father and mother immediately to her assistance, yet, before they could sufficiently subdue the fire, she was literally a crisp. She died the same night at 10 o'clock, perfectly sensible and free from pain, observing to her mother, "don't weep for me, I shall soon be well enough."