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# THE STAR,

AND  
**Adams County Republican Banner.**

TERMS—Two Dollars per annum—  
payable half-yearly in advance. No sub-  
scriptions taken for less than six months, and  
none discontinued until all arrearages are  
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DUCEIT AMOR PATRIAE PRODESSE CIVIBUS—“THE LOVE OF MY COUNTRY LEADS ME TO BE OF ADVANTAGE TO MY FELLOW-CITIZENS.”

BY ROBERT W. MIDDLETON,  
At \$2 per annum, half-yearly in advance.

GERTYSBURG, PA. TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1899.

Vol. 3—No. 43.  
Whole Number, 100.

**ANTI-MASONIC**  
**STATE CONVENTION:**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 22, 1892.  
The Delegates to the Anti-Masonic State  
Convention, assembled in the Court House  
at 3 o'clock P. M. and organized by appoint-  
ing Col. James Patterson, Chairman, pro-  
tem, and Joseph Kuhns, Esq. and Dr. Geo.  
F. H. Strawbridge, Secretaries.

On motion of Gen. Burrows, the coun-  
ties were called in order and the following  
Delegates appeared and took their seats.  
*Adams County*—Andrew Marshall.  
*Allegheny*—James Espy, Cornelius Darral,  
Wm. Hays, Jas. C. Gilleland, Andrew Bayne,  
*Armstrong*—Philip Meckling, George Moans,  
*Beaver*—Gen. William Ayres.  
*Berks*—Geo. Germand, Jacob Weaver, William  
Young, Samuel Bertolet, Samuel Myers.  
*Bradford*—O. P. Ballard.  
*Bucks*—Benj. Reigel, B. Williams, E. Galkyson.  
*Butler*—Moses Sullivan, Wm. Purviance.  
*Bedford*—Andrew Mann, Gen. Wm. Piper.  
*Columbia*—Daniel Montgomery.  
*Chester*—Jas. W. Brown, Jas. Tillam, Francis  
Parke, Thomas H. Gardner, Jesse Evans.  
*Cumberland*—John McKeehan, Jacob Rupp,  
George Fleming.  
*Crawford*—William Clark, Walter Oliver.  
*Delaware*—Sam'l Davis, Esq., Wm. G. Flower.  
*Dauphin*—Wm. Ayres, Esq., Henry Peller.  
*Eric*—John Riddell.  
*Franklin*—John Johnston.  
*Fayette*—Moses B. Porter, James Todd.  
*Huntingdon*—James Steele, John Stewart, John  
Oliver, Jr.  
*Indiana*—William Houston.  
*Junata*—James Mathers.  
*Lebanon*—Jacob B. Weidman, Adam Wise.  
*Lancaster*—Z. McLeneagan, John Long, Col.  
Maxwell Kennedy, Jas. Patterson, Henry Hibsh-  
man, F. Hippel, C. Bentz, B. Eshleman.  
*Luzerne*—E. Worthington, C. Butler, N. Beach.  
*Lyconing*—Richard Hays, Wm. Wilson, Gen.  
John Burrows.  
*Lehigh*—Gen. Henry Mertz, John Roney, Esq.,  
Peter Hoffman.  
*Mifflin*—Joseph Milliken.  
*Merced*—Robert Stewart.  
*Montgomery*—Robert Sinson, Jonathan Jarret,  
Robert Ireddell.  
*Northampton*—I. McHose, E. Sheiner, Ab'm.  
Larch, James Leibert.  
*Northumberland*—Peter Weimer, J. Taggart.  
*Perry*—John Everhart.  
*Philadelphia City and County*—Chas. Watres,  
J. R. Jones, C. S. Cope, Wm. Grimshaw, J. Gest,  
S. Shirk, J. Clarke, H. Witmer, J. Webster, R.  
Kennedy, J. Gillingham, D. M'Laughlin.  
*Schuylkill*—Andrew Kepner.  
*Susquehanna*—George Walker.  
*Somerset*—George Eya, J. F. Cox, G. Maese.  
*Union*—Ner Middleswarth, Geo. F. H. Straw-  
bridge, Jacob Sypher.  
*Washington*—J. Bowor, R. Wyle, B. S. Stewart.  
*Westmoreland*—Jacob Lobinger, J. Kuhns.  
*York*—Col. Henry Stover, James R. Riley,  
P. H. Burg.

On motion, NER MIDDLESWARTH  
of Union county, was chosen President of  
the convention, Gen. HENRY MERTZ of Le-  
high, and the Hon. WILLIAM CLARK of  
Crawford, Vice-Presidents, and James Steele  
of Huntingdon, and Charles S. Cope of  
Philadelphia, Secretaries.  
On motion of Mr. Riddell, Resolved, that  
Editors of newspapers in this place be in-  
vited to take seats within the Bar of this con-  
vention.  
On motion of Mr. Todd, Ordered, that the  
committee appointed to prepare business  
have leave to sit during the sittings of the  
convention.  
On motion, Gen. Wm. Ayres was admit-  
ted to a seat in the convention, to represent  
the county of Beaver.  
Mr. Kuhns from the committee appointed  
to prepare business for the convention made  
report.  
Resolved, That the Delegates from each  
Congressional district be a committee to se-  
lect a number of candidates for Electors of  
President and Vice President equal to their  
Representation in Congress.  
Resolved, That one person from each con-  
gressional district be appointed by the pre-  
sident, to select the names of two suitable  
persons as Senatorial Electors of president  
and vice-president.  
Resolved, That this Convention will pro-  
ceed to the nomination of a candidate for  
Governor of this commonwealth at the ensu-  
ing general election, at 9 o'clock A. M. on  
to-morrow.  
Resolved, That a Committee of nine be  
appointed to report a general address to the  
People of Pennsylvania.  
Resolved, That a Committee of nine be ap-  
pointed to report resolutions expressive of  
the sense of this Convention.  
Resolved, That a Committee of nine be  
appointed to ascertain the contingent expen-  
ses of this convention, and to collect funds  
from the members of the same for the pur-  
pose of defraying such expenses.  
The following Committees were announced  
by the President:—  
To draft an Address.—Messrs. Jones, of  
Philadelphia; S. C. Gilleland, of Pittsburg;  
Todd, of Fayette; Hibshman, of Lancaster;  
Strawbridge, of Union; Leibert, of North-  
ampton; Ayres, of Dauphin; Ayres, of Bea-  
ver; Walker, of Susquehanna.  
To draft Resolutions.—Messrs. McLene-  
agan, of Lancaster; Kuhns, of Westmore-  
land; Kennedy, of Philadelphia; Wilson, of  
Lyconing; Weidman, of Lebanon; Myers,  
of Berks; Piper, of Bedford; Taggart, of  
Northumberland; Wyle, of Washington.

On Finance.—Messrs. Riley, of York;  
Milliken, of Mifflin; Means, of Armstrong;  
Ballard, of Bradford; Gardner, of Chester;

Peller, of Dauphin; Johnston, of Franklin;  
Stewart, of Huntingdon; Cox, of Somerset.  
To report names for Senatorial Electors.  
1st, 2d and 3d Districts.—Messrs. Gest,  
Witmer and Watres.  
4 do.—Flower, of Delaware.  
5 do.—Stinson, of Montgomery.  
6 do.—Wise, of Lebanon.  
7 do.—Germand, of Berks.  
8 do.—McHose, of Northampton.  
9 do.—Montgomery, of Columbia.  
10 do.—Stover, of York.  
11 do.—Everhart, of Perry.  
12 do.—Mathers, of Juniata.  
13 do.—Pyle, of Somerset.  
14 do.—Porter, of Fayette.  
15 do.—Stewart, of Washington.  
16 do.—Sullivan, of Butler.  
17 do.—Lobinger, of Westmoreland.  
18 do.—Riddell, of Erie.  
On motion of Mr. Kuhns, a letter from  
Judge Pallock was read and ordered to be  
placed on the minutes.  
A letter from Samuel Strait, Jr. to the Pre-  
sident of the Convention was read and laid  
on the table.  
On motion of Mr. Kuhns, Resolved, that a  
committee of seven be appointed by the  
President to report the business proper to be  
brought before this convention. Where-  
upon,  
—Joseph Kuhns, of Westmoreland; Wm.  
Grimshaw, of Philadelphia; William Piper, of  
Bedford; Cornelius Darral, of Allegheny;  
Maxwell Kennedy, of Lancaster; William  
Ayres, of Dauphin; O. P. Ballard, of Brad-  
ford, were appointed said committee.  
On motion of Mr. Gest, Resolved, that the  
rules for the government of the House of  
Representatives of Pennsylvania be adopted  
for the Government of this convention.  
Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at  
9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23, 1892.  
Convention met pursuant to adjourn-  
ment.

The chairmen of the committees of the  
several Congressional Districts, reported the  
names of the following persons as Electors  
of President and Vice President, for the se-  
veral Congressional Districts in the State of  
Pennsylvania.  
1st, 2d and 3d Districts—city and co. of  
Philadelphia.—Cadwallader Evans, Lewis  
Passmore, Samuel Harvey.  
4 do.—Col. Maxwell Kennedy, of Lanca-  
ster co.; Nathan Pennypacker, of Chester;  
William Johnson, of Delaware.  
5 do.—Nathaniel B. Boileau, of Mont-  
gomery, co.  
6 do.—David Ferguson, Esq. of Dauphin.  
7 do.—John Walter, of Berks; John Fe-  
kert, of Lehigh.  
8 do.—Mich'l Fackenthall, Jr. of Bucks;  
Samuel Ledia, of Northampton.  
9 do.—Ner Middleswarth, of Union; Wil-  
liam Wilson, of Lyconing; Chester Butler,  
of Luzerne.  
10 do.—Dr. William McIlvaine, of York.  
11 do.—William Line, of Cumberland;  
Robert Robinson, of Franklin.  
12 do.—Jas. Entriken, of Huntingdon.  
13 do.—Frederick Gebheart, of Somerset  
14 do.—William Colvin, of Fayette.  
15 do.—Thomas McKeever, Esq., of  
Washington.  
16 do.—Benjamin Darlington, of Allegh-  
eny; Gen. Wm. Ayres, of Beaver.  
17 do.—John Taylor, Esq., of Indiana.  
18 do.—Robert Falkner, of Warren.

On motion of Mr. Riddell, Mr. Marshall  
was admitted to take a seat as a Delegate for  
Adams county.  
Robert Ireddell, a Delegate (by substitu-  
tion) from Montgomery county, appeared  
and took his seat.  
Moved and seconded that this Convention  
proceed to the nomination of a candidate for  
Governor of this Commonwealth.  
Mr. Porter, of Fayette, nominated Joseph  
Ritner, of Washington County.  
No other nominations being made, on mo-  
tion of General Burrows of Lyconing, the  
nominations were closed, and on motion  
of Mr. Riley of York, the election of a candidate  
for Governor was postponed until three  
o'clock P. M.  
On motion of Mr. Cox of Somerset, Re-  
solved, that a committee of five be ap-  
pointed to enquire into the expediency of having  
published in pamphlet form, in addition to  
the proceedings of this Convention, the Decla-  
ration of the Leroy convention, the letters  
of the Hon. Richard Rush, the letter of  
Judge Strong and the address of the National  
Anti-Masonic Convention which assembled  
at Baltimore and such other documents as  
the Committee may deem important, to be  
printed in the English and German Lan-  
guages. The President appointed the fol-  
lowing gentlemen said committee: Messrs.  
Cox, of Somerset; Riley, of York; Roney, of  
Lehigh; Darral, of Pittsburg; Burrows, of  
Lyconing.  
Ordered, that when this Convention ad-  
journs, it will adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock  
this afternoon.  
On motion, Convention adjourned.  
3 o'clock P. M.

Convention met pursuant to adjourn-  
ment.  
On motion, George Fleming was admit-  
ted to take a seat in convention as a dele-  
gate for Cumberland and Perry counties.  
On motion of Mr. Oliver, Ordered, that  
the Secretary call over the list of Delegates,  
to ascertain the number in attendance. 105  
present.

The chairman of the committee appointed  
to nominate proper persons for Senatorial  
Electors, reported the names of the Hon.  
Richard Rush, of York county, and Gen.  
William Piper, of Bedford county, to be sup-  
ported for those offices.  
On motion of Mr. Ayres, of Dauphin, the  
convention proceeded to the election of a  
candidate for Governor of this Common-  
wealth; when upon casting up the votes it  
appeared that JOSEPH RITNER, of  
Washington county, had 105 votes, being  
the whole number of votes given. Where-  
upon, the President declared JOSEPH  
RITNER, of Washington county, to be  
unanimously elected the candidate for Gov-  
ernor.  
On motion of Mr. Gest, of Philadelphia,  
Resolved, That the President and Vice Pre-  
sidents of this convention be a committee to  
communicate to Joseph Ritner, Esq. of  
Washington county, that he has been unani-  
mously nominated as the candidate for Gov-  
ernor to be supported by the Democratic  
Anti-Masonic Party of Pennsylvania; and  
that they transmit his answer to such com-  
munication, when received, to the state  
committee for publication.  
On motion of Mr. Cox, of Somerset, Re-  
solved, unanimously, that the members of  
this convention pledge themselves to use  
all honorable means to promote the election  
of Joseph Ritner, for the office of Governor  
of this Commonwealth at the ensuing Gen-  
eral Election.  
Mr. McLeneagan of Lancaster, the chair-  
man of the committee appointed to draft re-  
solutions, reported the following:  
The committee appointed to prepare and  
present resolutions expressive of the views of  
this convention on subjects connected with  
the principles of Anti-Masonry, respectfully  
report the following:—

1. Resolved, That this Convention un-  
animously approve of the nomination of WIL-  
LIAM WIRT, of Maryland, as the candi-  
date of the Democratic Anti-Masonic Party  
for the office of President of the United States  
at the approaching Election, and cordially  
recommend him to the support of the Peo-  
ple of this Commonwealth, and of the Union  
—firmly believing that his pure character,  
his high attainments, his splendid talents,  
his known devotion to republican principles,  
and his ardent attachment to the Constitu-  
tion of the Union, are a sufficient guarantee,  
that in his hands the administration of the  
General Government would, in all its relations,  
be conducted with honor and advantage to  
the country, and so as to insure to the citizen  
protection, and the enjoyment of just and  
equal rights; and secure to the country, lib-  
erty untrammelled, and THE SUPREMACY  
OF THE LAWS.  
2. Resolved, unanimously, That this  
Convention highly approve of the nomination  
of AMOS ELLMAKER, of Pennsylvania,  
as the Democratic Anti-Masonic candidate  
for the Vice Presidency of the United States,  
and recommend him accordingly, having en-  
tire reliance on his qualifications for the im-  
portant station, and confiding in him as the  
strenuous advocate of those measures and  
doctrines which alone can perpetuate the  
free institutions of the country, and preserve  
the liberties of the people unharmed from  
the corrupting influence and intrigues of Se-  
cret Societies and combinations.  
3. Resolved, That the State Committee  
are hereby authorized and directed to sup-  
ply any vacancy that may occur, by death  
or otherwise, in the Anti-Masonic Ticket of  
Electoral Candidate; and to nominate such  
additional number of Electoral Candidates  
as this State may be entitled to, by the act  
of Congress now pending, relative to the ap-  
portionment of Members of Congress among  
the several States.  
4. Resolved, That the State Committee  
are hereby required to inform each Electoral  
Candidate of his nomination, and to ascer-  
tain from him his determination, if elected,  
to vote for William Wirt and Amos Ellma-  
ker, and on the refusal of any Electoral Can-  
didate to give assurance of such determina-  
tion, the said Committee are authorized to  
nominate in his place, a candidate for the of-  
fice of Elector, possessing opinions and prin-  
ciples in conformity with those of this Con-  
vention, and the Anti-Masonic party.  
5. Resolved, That it is satisfactorily as-  
certained, that direct Masonic influence has  
been used in this, and in other States, to  
promote the political preferment of the fra-  
ternity; to the exclusion of others, not Ma-  
sons, equally well qualified, by filling nearly  
all offices of trust, honor and emolument,  
with Masons, and their supporters; thereby  
developing its political character; Anti-Ma-  
sons are therefore necessarily compelled to  
resort to the elective franchise, in order to  
protect their rights and liberties.  
6. Resolved, That Anti-Masonry and De-  
mocracy are the same, both contending for  
equality of rights; and that Masonry and  
Aristocracy are the same, both contending  
for exclusive privileges.  
7. Resolved, That this Convention rec-  
ommend to the people, the propriety of po-  
litical opposition to all adherents and sup-  
porters of Masonry, whether oath-bound or  
otherwise.  
8. Resolved, That any society, requiring  
oaths to conceal its actions and objects, should  
be viewed with distrust, and considered as a

conspiracy for selfish purposes, having fraud-  
ulent designs, either on the interests or cred-  
ulity of the uninitiated.  
9. Resolved, That the number and profan-  
dity of Masonic Oaths, and the irrelevant  
familiarity of Masonry with religious forms,  
and sacred subjects, have a demoralizing ef-  
fect, diminish the evidences in favor of truth,  
pervert justice, throw a shield of impunity  
over the vicious by uniting the criminal al-  
ong the sworn brotherhood, and lead to  
distraction, inquietude and want of confi-  
dence in society.  
10. Resolved, That this Convention deems  
the administration of extra-judicial oaths ut-  
terly inconsistent with free, independent and  
democratic forms of government, and par-  
ticularly with the spirit of the Constitution  
of this State, and of the United States. That  
it highly approves of the effort now making  
by the people, to place the subject immedi-  
ately before their Representatives in the  
State Legislature.  
11. Resolved, That Anti-Masons will re-  
ceive into their ranks all those who now  
compose the Masonic fraternity, or its sup-  
porters, on their giving sufficient assurance  
of having sincerely abandoned Masonry and  
its deluge.  
12. Resolved, That this Convention rec-  
ommends to the Anti-Masonic party, strict  
attention to their principles in the formation  
of County Tickets, at all future elections,  
and after nominations are made, to lay aside  
all personal feelings and pursue alone the  
great principles of the cause, by adhering to  
their Tickets.  
13. Resolved, That a publishing com-  
mittee of three be appointed, to superintend  
the publication of the proceedings of this  
Convention in pamphlet form, and to pro-  
cure their publication correctly and speedily,  
and distribute them throughout the State.  
14. Resolved, That County Committees  
be now furnished, (or as soon after this time  
as possible,) to the publishing committee,  
and published with the proceedings of this  
Convention.  
15. Resolved, That the name with the  
address of each delegate of this Convention,  
be ascertained, and published with its pro-  
ceedings.  
The Report was adopted unanimously.  
On motion, Thomas Bowman was admit-  
ted to take a seat as a delegate for the city  
and county of Philadelphia.  
On motion of Mr. Todd, of Fayette, Re-  
solved, That the State Committee be re-  
quested to correspond with the several county  
committees, and with the corresponding  
committees of other States, in order to as-  
certain, and make public, any evidence that  
may exist, or hereafter may develop itself,  
relating to any combination that now does, or  
during the Presidential contest, may exist be-  
tween the Masonic friends of Gen. Jackson  
and Henry Clay.  
On motion of Mr. Clarke, of Philadelphia,  
Resolved, That the State Committee which  
may be appointed by this Convention, be re-  
quested to make a written report of the pro-  
gress and state of the Democratic Anti-Ma-  
sonic cause, to be presented at such future  
Convention as they may call.  
On motion of Mr. Darral, of Allegheny,  
Resolved, That this Convention regard the  
influence which Masonry has maintained,  
& now exerts over the public press as charac-  
teristic of its anti-Republican nature, and as  
good evidence of its disposition to subsidize  
the main bulwarks of our liberties.  
On motion, Resolved, That the present  
State Committee, consisting of Joseph Wal-  
lace, William Ayres, and John McCord, of  
Harrisburg; John R. Jones, of Philadelphia;  
Henry Mertz, of Lehigh; Z. McLeneagan, of  
Lancaster; John Burrows, of Lyconing;  
Benjamin Stewart, of Washington; and John  
R. Roseburg, of Allegheny, be and they  
hereby are re-appointed.  
Mr. Jones, of Philadelphia, the Chairman  
from the committee appointed for that pur-  
pose, reported an Address to the citizens of  
Pennsylvania; which, on motion, was read  
by him, and unanimously adopted by the  
convention.  
Ordered, that when this convention ad-  
journs, it will adjourn to meet at half past  
seven o'clock.  
On motion, Resolved, that five thousand  
copies of the proceedings of this convention  
be published and distributed, one half there-  
of in the English and the other half in the  
German language.  
Half past 7 o'clock, P. M.  
The Convention met, pursuant to adjourn-  
ment.  
Ordered, that Messrs. Ayres, Riley and  
Clark be appointed a Committee to superin-  
tend the publication of the proceedings of  
this convention.  
On motion of Mr. Ayres, of Dauphin, or-  
dered, that the Reports of the Committees  
appointed to select Electors for President  
and Vice President be adopted.  
On motion of Mr. Riddell, of Erie, Re-  
solved, that the delegates attending this  
Convention from Counties adjoining those  
not represented here, be requested to use  
their influence to have County Committees  
and County organizations formed in such  
adjacent and unrepresented Counties, and  
make report of such Committees to the State  
Committee.  
On motion of Mr. Riddell, of Erie, Re-  
solved, that from full interchange of sen-  
timent among the members of this Con-  
vention, the prospect of the complete triumph

of the cause of Anti-masonry at the approach-  
ing Election for Governor, is fair and cheer-  
ing to the friends of equal rights and the su-  
premacacy of the laws.  
The following County Committees of Cor-  
respondence were appointed by the Conven-  
tion, to wit:  
[We omit the committees of all the coun-  
ties excepting those which follow, viz:  
ADAMS—James Wilson, James Robin-  
ette, Robert Smith, James Renshaw, Bern-  
hart Gilbert, Thomas G. Cooper.  
CUMBERLAND—Geo. Fleming, Ja-  
cob Bretz, Frederick Sharratts, Jacob Lan-  
dis, Henry Rupp, Peter Will, Joseph Stay-  
man.  
FRANKLIN—John Wolsh, John Find-  
ley, Adam Vanderow, Ab'm Keefer, John  
Witherow, Andrew B. Rankin, Captain  
William Smith.  
YORK—J. Kauffelt, T. C. Hambly, M.  
Boucher, Wm. Nelson, Wm. S. Cowan, P.  
W. Burgh, Dr. H. McDonald, Col. H. Stov-  
er, Henry Etter.]  
On motion of Mr. Ayres, of Dauphin, Re-  
solved, That the Legislature of Pennsylva-  
nia be requested to purchase and place in  
the State Library the following books, viz.  
Morgan's Illustrations of Masonry, and  
his Ritual, Bernard's Light on Masonry,  
the Proceedings of the Philadelphia, Balti-  
more National Anti-Masonic Conven-  
tions, and that a copy of this Resolution, sig-  
ned by the officers of the convention, be for-  
warded to the speakers of the Senate and  
House of Representatives, to be laid before  
their respective branches of the Legislature.  
On motion of Mr. Davis, of Delaware,  
Resolved, that the thanks of this Convention  
be tendered to the Commissioners of Dau-  
phin County, for the use of the Court House,  
and to the citizens of Harrisburg for their  
kind and hospitable attention to the mem-  
bers of this convention.  
On motion of Mr. Riley, of York, Resolved,  
That this Convention highly approves of the  
sentiments expressed in the letter of the ven-  
erable Judge Strong of Vermont, and that  
he merits the thanks of all the friends of civil  
and religious liberty.  
On motion of Mr. Riley, of York, Resol-  
ved, That this convention highly approves of  
the conduct of our fellow citizen, Richard  
Rush, for the manly expositions he has  
made in his several letters, with regard to  
the pernicious influence of Masonry on the  
Laws of our Country and the Liberty of the  
Press, and that he is entitled to the gratitude  
of his country—and that the Convention  
recommend them to the deliberate perusal  
of every friend of freedom.  
On motion of Mr. Flower, of Delaware,  
Resolved, That the thanks of this conven-  
tion be tendered to the President and Vice  
Presidents for the able manner in which  
they have conducted the Proceedings of this  
convention during their deliberations.  
On motion of Mr. Riley, of York, Resol-  
ved, That the thanks of this Convention be  
tendered to the Secretaries, for the able and  
efficient manner in which they have dis-  
charged the duties assigned them.  
On motion of Mr. Peller, of Dauphin, Re-  
solved, That the State Committee and the  
different County Committees, have power to  
fill any vacancies that may occur in this  
number.  
On motion, the convention adjourned sine  
die.

**TO THE PEOPLE.**  
FELLOW-CITIZENS—As Delegates re-  
presenting the Anti-Masonic Democratic  
Party of the State, we submit to you an ex-  
position of the principles and objects of our  
political organization; and we propose for  
your approval, candidates for the chief exe-  
cutive offices of the United States and of  
Pennsylvania.  
We hold as undeniable truth, that the de-  
sign of Republican government is to secure  
every citizen in the possession and enjoy-  
ment of Equal Rights: that those rights are  
frequently endangered by secret or open  
aggression: that they depend for their ex-  
istence on the constant vigilance of the  
People: and that, when endangered, it is a  
sacred duty, with serious deliberation, but  
firm resolve, to take all necessary measures  
for their defence and vindication. Confor-  
mably to these fundamental principles, we  
believe that Secret Societies, especially the  
Masonic, require the interposition of the  
sovereign people.  
Free-Masonry has long been a subject of  
serious reflection to many of our most en-  
lightened citizens. Washington, who had  
been initiated in early life, and spoke from  
personal knowledge, on the solemn occasion  
of his farewell address, warned his country  
against secret combinations. Other great  
and good men, from time to time, reiterated  
the same caution. But the peculiar organi-  
zation of these institutions being in great  
measure unknown, public attention was not  
strongly excited until the memorable Au-  
tumn of 1826, when banishment and death  
were inflicted on a free citizen, within the  
limits of an American commonwealth, for  
the violation of the laws of Masonic Govern-  
ment.  
Since that memorable era, the principles,  
ceremonies, obligations, and spirit of Ma-  
sonry, thoroughly and unquestionably re-  
vealed, and become matters of general con-  
science, have been fully before the people.  
From a serious and deliberate investiga-  
tion of the subject, as thus developed, we