



JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Stroudsburg, November 17, 1841.

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General Scott.

In our paper of to-day, will be found a letter from this distinguished gentleman, drawn from him by numerous letters of inquiry, from various parts of the United States. We publish it without comment, leaving it to each individual to form his own opinion of its merits or defects.

The legislature of New Jersey adjourned on Friday last, to meet again on the 11th of January next.

Gov. Pennington has appointed Thursday, Dec. 9, as a day of Public Thanksgiving in New Jersey.

Two hundred and twenty-two persons have recently signed the Temperance pledge at Hollidaysburg.

The Governor has pardoned Dr. Chauncey who was convicted in Philadelphia about a year ago of manslaughter.

The Miners' Journal, at Pottsville, contains a graphic sketch of the new village of Shamokin, and its resources. We detach the following paragraph:

Shamokin, as all the world knows--and if they don't they should--is located in Northumberland county, about nineteen miles, or thereabout, from the winding and beautiful Susquehanna. It is a thriving, healthy little town, of some eighty or a hundred houses, which contain about six hundred souls, and is indebted for its existence, as it will be for its ultimate prosperity and wealth, to its coal and iron ore. A large portion of the town lots, and nearly all the coal land in the neighborhood, is owned by the Shamokin Coal and Iron Company. This Company, as the name imports, is the union of two Companies. The charter was granted in March, 1840, and expires in 1857. The capital is \$300,000. The united companies own about 1,400 acres of coal and iron land, 750 of which are situated in Columbia county, and the balance in Northumberland, on the line of the Danville and Pottsville railroad. On this tract there are twelve excellent veins of coal running principally a distance of three hundred and twenty rods through the tract, varying in thickness from five feet up to eleven, and in elevation from two hundred to four hundred feet above the water level. There is one vein indeed sixty feet thick, but we do not think it can be worked to advantage; besides the coal from this vein is heavy, and of an inferior quality. Of the twelve veins, only four are partially worked. A fifth--the "flat vein"--has been opened for about one hundred yards. The flat vein is a red ash vein, and the only one in the Shamokin region.

The New York Tribune suggests that the name of Samuel L. Southard be put on the ticket with that of Henry Clay--the latter as the Whig candidate for President, the former for Vice President.

The New York papers state that five hundred thousand pounds of butter are on the way to New York, via Erie Canal, from Buffalo. The larger portion of this supply is from Ohio.

U. S. Troops. The steamboat Marietta arrived at St. Louis on the 27th from Pittsburg, having on board about one hundred and twenty men of the 1st. regiment of dragoons from Carlisle Barracks, Pa., destined to Fort Leavenworth.

NEW YORK STATE CANALS ---There was received for toll on all the New York State Canals, during the first week in November, \$82,503.79.

According to the N. Orleans Crescent City, the number of beautiful women in mourning in that city is immense. Some are widows, bereft of a husband's tenderness; some mothers, deprived of a son's or daughter's companionship; others are sisters and maidens, desolate in the world, seeking in vain a brother's kiss or a lover's passion.

The Miner's Journal says that a large number of men have been discharged, both in the mines and on the landings, in consequence of the operators being unable to forward as much coal as formerly, owing to the partial obstruction in the Canal.

The Norfolk Beacon says it is reported that the Hon. Caleb Cushing is about to lead to the altar a daughter of President Tyler.

Massachusetts stands Firm!

The old 'Bay State' is the Whig State after all, next to, if not before, gallant Kentucky. Troubles at Washington or elsewhere, perplexities, disappointments, and quarrels, may shake but they cannot overturn her. She is proof even against 'perils and false brethren,' and nothing less than fifteen gallons of the ardent can make her sound head swim. In spite of clouds overhead and disasters thickening on every side, she has nobly sustained herself in the recent election, re-electing 'Honest John Davis' Governor by 5,000 majority over Marcus Morton, and 1 or 2,000 over all the Locofoco, Abolition, and scattering votes. ---Tribune.

A revolutionary soldier named Capt. James Chapman, recently died at New London, Conn.

The Great Western arrived at New York on the 9th inst. with news seventeen days later from England--not however, of much importance. Mr. Stevenson, late Minister to England, and family were passengers.

The Britannia arrived at Boston on the Sunday previous, but with news not so late as the Great Western.

The preliminary proceedings in the McLeod case had reached England, and were the occasion of much remark.

O'Connell had been elected Lord Mayor of London.

An insurrection had broken out simultaneously in several cities of Spain; but was suppressed. At Madrid, an attempt was made to seize the Queen--1,000 men entering the palace, and it is said there was fighting even in the Queen's drawing room. ---Hunterdon Gazette.

One of them Punished.---A Court Martial, in pursuance of the directions of Sir Robert Jackson, was recently held in Montreal on Mr. Johnston, an officer in Dyer's corps, for participating in the capture of Grogan in the territories of the United States, and that, having pleaded guilty, and after addressing the court in mitigation of punishment, he was sentenced to be discharged from the corps.

A Caution to Water Drinkers.---A woman residing in the lower part of the county, a few days ago placed her mouth over the spout or nozzle of a small hydrant for the purpose of slacking her thirst; but little time elapsed before she was taking with nausea and cast forth a live eel, about four inches long. Applicants at hydrants should supply themselves with a tumbler or some other convenient vessel, and thereby save themselves from the danger of swallowing other things that might slip down, as "sick as an eel." ---Sat. Chron.

DIVORCE CASE---At the recent term of the Stark County, Ohio Supreme Court, a divorce was granted to the wife of Jacob Cope, on the ground of cruel treatment. The Court decreed to the wife the exclusive use of the whole of Cope's real estate during her life, and besides ordered him to restore to her her wearing apparel, or pay a fine of one hundred dollars.

LATEST FROM MEXICO. The Schooner Emblem arrived yesterday from Matamoros. She brought with her \$9,000 in specie. Pseudo revolutionary movements are the order of the day, and business is at a stand, as usual. It is very sickly; the British Consul, Mr. Breeze, among others has died there.

It is said that Matamoros has declared in favor of Santa Anna, and the rumor that prevailed to the effect that Tampico had declared in his favor, is partially confirmed by this arrival. We hitherto refrained from noticing the latter rumor, as it was authenticated. ---N. O. Picayune, Nov. 5.

Tobacco a Remedy for Arsenic.---A young lady in New-Hampshire fell into the mistake, so often committed, of eating a portion of arsenic which had been prepared for the destruction of rats. Painful symptoms soon led to the inquiry; and her mistake was discovered. An elderly lady who was present, advised that she should be made to vomit as speedily as possible; as she had always felt a perfect loathing for tobacco in every shape, it was supposed that this would at once effect the purpose. A pipe was used, but without producing a nausea. She next chewed a large portion of strong tobacco, and swallowed the juice, and that even without a sensation of disgust.

A strong decoction was then made of hot water, of which she drank perhaps half a pint. Still there was neither nausea nor dizziness, nor did it operate at all, either as an emetic or cathartic. The painful sensations at her stomach, however, subsided, and she began to feel well. On the arrival of physicians, an emetic of blue vitriol was administered, and produced one operation. One or two days after there was a discharge of a dark green color, approaching to black. No ill consequences followed.

Another case occurred in the same place a few years subsequently, in which arsenic was taken through mistake, by a sick person, and she employed tobacco with the same success. She, too, had always loathed the article, but now chewed it, and swallowed the saliva without producing sickness at the stomach. No emetic was administered nor any other remedy. ---Silliman's Journal.

A Thrilling Incident.

The Havre Journal mentions an incident which occurred to some whale fishers during a recent voyage, which, it observes, would be incredible if it were not attested by the captain and his men. Capt. Deglos, of the Gastave, whaler, was fishing off the coast of New Holland, and was giving chase, in a boat with five men, to a large cacholot whale, which they soon came up with and harpooned. The animal, as soon as he felt the instrument, went down perpendicularly and carried out a great quantity of line. The crew remained with their oars raised, waiting for his reappearance, when on a sudden they saw an enormous jaw rise on each side of the boat, far above the gunwale, which was thus caught in the mouth of the whale, and was ready to be crushed in an instant.

The men were so paralyzed by fear that they could not obey the captain's orders to get out their saws and work away at the animal's mouth; but gradually the jaws began to sink, and, after giving the boat's side a terrible grating, disappeared beneath the water. One of the men fainted away on his seat. ---Sat. Chron.

The Cost of a Frolic.

A very serious affair occurred at Washington on the evening of the last day of October. A party of young individuals determined to amuse themselves by a frolic of stealing cabbages, and accordingly ventured upon the premises of a gardener near the city, who expecting something of the kind on "Holly Eve," laid in wait for the aggressors, and fired a gun, which severely wounded one of the persons engaged in the sport. Finding the individual severely wounded, the party retired to a dwelling adjacent, when strange to tell, an examination disclosed the fact that the sufferer was a young girl, dressed in men's clothes! ---Ib.

BIGAMY.---A writing-master named Wellington, alias Smith, at Richmond, Va., lately duped one of his female pupils into a hasty marriage with him and went off to Warrenton, N. C. to spend the honeymoon. He had hardly gone when a prior wife came on posthaste from the North in search of him; whereupon he was overhauled, brought back to Richmond, and put in a snug place. He is likely to escape from punishment, however, on the plea that he had another wife when he married No. 1, and was therefore not legally married to her at all, but perfectly free to form new engagements. He will, however, be tried for swindling and false pretences. His two wives are in great distress.

Moral.---Never marry in haste one of whom you know nothing but what he (or she) tells you. A hurried marriage with a stranger is a very poor disguise for seduction. ---Ib.

DEATH FROM POISON.---On Friday the 5th inst. the body of Mr. William Wilson, of Erie, Pa. was found dead on the pavement in front of the Associate Reformed Church, on Eighth street. It appears that the deceased was intoxicated the evening previous, and had been on the steps in front of the Church, from which he fell and killed himself.

N. Y. Tribune.

DEFECTIVE GUNS.---An able writer at Washington is addressing a series of letters to Mr. Clay, on the subject of Southern and Western Armories. In one of them the writer says: "In urging the importance of good guns, such as a national foundry would give to our vessels of war, it is only necessary to remind you of the fact that in the last war we had more men killed on the Lakes by the bursting of our own guns than by the shot of the enemy. It is a terrible thing in action, and a great damper upon the bravery of the most gallant tar, when he is afraid of his own piece."

From the Newark Daily Advertiser.

Letter from General Scott.

The following circular letter from Major General Scott has been handed to us for publication. It has been drawn from him, we understand, by numerous letters from various parts of the Union, including applications from New Jersey, asking his opinions concerning the politics of the day.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 1841.

Gentlemen:---I have lately had the honor to receive many letters from as many different States, each propounding, on the part of the writer and his neighbor, nearly the same political interrogatories---to which answers are requested.

The scope of the inquiries is a flattering proof of the interest that some of my countrymen take in the opinions that I have formed on certain great principles of abiding importance to the success of our systems of government; and as I have nothing to conceal, if nothing of value to communicate, I shall, at once, without policy or reserve, and in the form of a circular, comply with their several requests.

Party Politics.---Although from early manhood, I have, by the profession of arms, in the defence of my country, been thrown out of the arena of party politics, yet I have never ceased to be an attentive observer of public events, and thus, I believe, there has scarcely been a discussion of moment in Congress within my time, on which I did not form and modestly but firmly express a passing opinion.

A mere youth, I felt the liveliest joy when the alien and sedition laws expired in the triumph of Mr. Jefferson. From 1806, I was old enough, by speech and pen, to call for a prompt and energetic redress of our wrongs suffered from Great Britain under her orders in Council; the attack on the Chesapeake frigate, and

long continued impressment of our seamen; and when the war of 1812 at length came, I was among the first and longest in the presence of the foe. The insults received from the French Directory---their depredations on our commerce, renewed under Napoleon's decrees, (Berlin and Milan) which followed the British Orders in Council, also largely shared in my indignant reprobation.

The administration of Mr. Madison and Mr. Monroe, like that of Mr. Jefferson, had, in their respective periods, my humble but hearty approbation; and I have ever since censured nothing in either but the sale of a part and the dismantling of our Navy; the gun boat system of defence that followed, and the indefinite embargo, which, crippling us for war, by destroying our commerce and finances, and oppressing agriculture, wars long continued without redressing one outrage from abroad.

I give this little sketch of the growth of my party feelings or opinions---unimportant, perhaps, except to myself and a few partial friends, to show that if I have never been a Federalist in any party sense of the term, so neither have I been a Jacobin, an impracticable or abstractionist in any sense whatever, but always an old fashioned republican, devoted to the support of law and order; a democratic Whig (just as all my family had been Whigs in the great struggle for national freedom and independence.

The Judiciary.---From an early and long continued study of elementary law, my mind has ever been imbued with deep reverence for the Bench---State and Federal; an independent department in our system of government, and which, holding neither the Purse to corrupt, nor the Sword to terrify, addresses itself only with the mild force of persuasive reason, to the intelligence and virtue of the whole community. By the Federal Constitution, every possible safeguard is provided to shield its Judiciary against fleeting prejudice, political rancor and party dependence, to which legislators and the Executive are unavoidably, directly and constantly exposed. Hence, to the one Supreme Court" is widely extended (by "appellate jurisdiction") "all cases in law and equity, arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States and treaties made, or which shall be made under their authority."

Looking to this express provision, I have always held that when a doubtful question, arising under the Constitution itself, the supreme law of the land; under an act of Congress or a treaty, has once been solemnly adjudicated by that Court, the principle of the decision ought to be taken, by all, as definitely settled; unless, indeed, it be upon a re-hearing before the same tribunal. This appears to me too clear for dispute; for the Court is not only declared to be supreme, and hence there can be no bench beyond it; but to Congress is only given the power to constitute inferior tribunals. By appeals to the Supreme Court, a settlement was intended to be reached, and anarchy, through a long distraction of the public mind, on great questions of legislative and executive power thus rendered impossible. Practically, therefore, for the people, and especially their functionaries, to deny, disturb, or impugn principles thus constitutionally established, strikes me as of evil example, if not of a direct revolutionary tendency, except, indeed, in the case of a judicial decision enlarging power and against liberty; and any dangerous error of this sort can be always easily corrected, (and should only be corrected) by an amendment of the Constitution, in one of the modes prescribed by that instrument itself---the organic law of the States and the people. Misconstructions of law, other than the Constitution are yet more readily corrected by amendatory or declaratory acts of Congress.

The Elective Veto.---This by the framers of the Constitution, could only have been designed---1. To enable the President to defend his own rightful powers against usurpations on the part of Congress. 2. To enable him to forbid other legislative infractions of the Constitution; and 3. To guard the country against other acts of hasty or violent legislation.

It is hardly possible to conceive a case under the first or second of these heads, against which the Judiciary---the balance wheel of the system---does not afford, of itself, all the security that the people can require.

But without the protection of either the Bench or the Veto, would the executive department, (become so super-judicial of late years) be too weak to fulfil the strictly executive functions for which it was more particularly created? Or rather, would not that department still be the most powerful, for evil, in the government?

The President is under the checks of the constitution and law, rightfully invested with the power of the Sword, and he has again and again had that of the Purse also. The Houses of Congress, it is true, lay taxes, on imports and regulate the sales of the public domain; but it is he (through his agents) who handles the proceeds. From 1833 to 1836 (to say nothing of the present) he alone nominated and dismissed all the agents who kept as well as those who collected, distributed and disbursed the public revenue. The apothegm---make us your executor: we care not who are your legislators; has a rightful application to such immense treasure as annually passes through their hands!

The rapid increase and spread of population; the growth of national wealth; the amount of revenue collected and disbursed; the new relations (by the extension of commerce) with foreign countries; the additional appointments at home and abroad; the number and value of contracts---all constantly and necessarily on the increase; a general decay in morals, perhaps as great in Congress as elsewhere; the habit that we have seen prevail during several presidential terms---of filling public offices with little or no regard to moral standing; have, taken together, already opened to the head of the gov-

ernment elements of power and corruption, which it was impossible for the framers and adopters of the constitution to foresee or to conceive. Who, at that distant day, for example, ever dreamed of the spectacles which have recently disgusted every honest citizen---of post-masters, mail-contractors, mail-agents, and census-takers covering the land with government pamphlets, handbills, and extra-gazettes, sufficient (if read) to sap the morals, public and private, of an entire generation?---of the custom-house mercenaries in the large cities living on the public, neglecting every duty for party meetings and the polls, and rendering to Fow- or the most bribe-worthy services?---of District Attorneys and Collectors, rambling missionaries, defending every abuse of office---their own the most inducement---in order to maintain power in the hands of their patron? All who have reflected on the foregoing facts must be ready to affirm that Executive Patronage "has increased is increasing, and ought to be diminished!"

I hope, then, by an early amendment of the constitution, to see a reduction of the President's veto. The regulation of patronage would properly follow.

There can be no good reason why the veto should not be overcome by a bare majority in each House of Congress, of all the members elected to it---say, for the benefit of reflection, at the end of ten days from the return of the bill. An amendment to this effect would still leave the President---the general representative of every State and district---armed with the votes of all the members absent, at the moment, from the respective Houses, and there will always be some members absent from both.

Rotation in Office. The inquiry under this head, is not definite in any letter before me. It, however, is presumed to refer---1. To governors and secretaries of territories and some of the judges therein; district attorneys, collectors, surveyors and naval officers of the customs, marshals, post-masters, whose commissions amount to a thousand dollars per annum; navy agents; registers and receivers of land offices; surveyors general of lands, and Indian agents---all of whom are by law, appointed for a term of four years; but subject by express enactment (except the judges) to be removed at pleasure---2. To a high class of civil officers (next to the chiefs) in the executive departments at Washington; other high functionaries---foreign ministers, secretaries of legation and consuls; post-masters, whose commissions amount to less than a thousand dollars per annum; superintendent of Indian affairs, Indian sub-agents, &c. &c.---all appointed without limitation as to term, yet subject in practice---not by express law---to be also removed at pleasure, and 3. To the assistants allowed by law to very many of the principals included above---which assistants are called clerks---some of them deputies, appraisers, weighers, gaugers, sub-inspectors, store-keepers, light house keepers, &c. &c.---all appointed and subject to removal, as under the second head.

I am asked---Whether (in my poor opinion) all those functionaries (amounting to many thousands) or any of them ought to be periodically superseded by original appointments? If yes---When? And if a part only---Which?

We have seen that a great number of offices are filled for a term of years, and more without any limitation as to term. I, however, can draw no line of just distinction between the claims of the two classes upon the favor of country or government.

Premising that regular periodical changes in the subordinate servants of the country, merely for the sake of change, would necessarily swell executive patronage, already too much swollen, I am obliged to add that I more than doubt, on other grounds, the policy and justice of such changes. 1. Because, for the able and prompt execution of public business, much official experience in a great number of particular stations, is known to be necessary. 2. Because many office-holders, appointed under even reckless administrations, (such as we have seen,) will always after a time be found of tried integrity, and of equal industry and abilities. 3. Because, again, some may be found in a state of honorable poverty, the result no less of stern integrity than of a long and exclusive devotion to the interests of the public; and 4. Because, to remove such servants, or not to re-appoint them, at the end of a term, would not only discourage successors in a faithful discharge of duty, but could not fail to outrage the moral sense of entire communities. I speak on this head from what I witnessed in 1829-30, of the cruel experiment, on a large scale, then made upon the sensibilities of the country, and the mischiefs to the public interests which early ensued.

What I would, therefore humbly advise is this: To turn out not only a change of President, but in any and every week of the year, all office-holders known to be deficient in either honesty, capacity, or industry; and to appoint, in their stead, men known to possess these qualities. Without an anxious attention to this rule, a government of the people, resting on virtue and intelligence, cannot long be successfully maintained; for a blind or vicious distribution of enormous patronage would soon, by the force of the highest example, beat down all that is taught in the Church, the School House, and the College.

One Presidential Term.---Of the eight chief magistrates that preceded General Harrison---whom a nation yet mourns---the first, third, fourth, fifth and seventh presided over this Union, respectively, two successive terms---the other three, but four years each; and every one of the eight, whilst in office, became a candidate for a second term.

I consider the sublime example, set by the father of his country, in declining a third election---which has been duly followed by our four popular Presidents, and would no doubt have been observed with equal good faith