



JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Stroudsburg, March 7, 1844.

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FOR PRESIDENT  
**HENRY CLAY,**  
OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of the Baltimore Convention

The Secret Circular.

In another column, we insert a Circular letter, which has been gotten up and distributed throughout the State by some of our public servants who were sent to Harrisburg, to legislate for the good of our whole people, and not to waste their time in attending to the sinking fortunes of the loco foco party. This Circular, however, is valuable, inasmuch as it will give the honest portion of their party an insight into the secret workings of the wire-pullers. The individuals, whose names are appended to it, are extensively known; and from their central position at the seat of Government, have the best means of receiving correct political information, and forming an unbiased opinion. We have their assurance that the Loco Foco party in Pennsylvania is in danger of being overthrown and defeated, as it was in 1840, and that nothing can save it but a "secret organization," of which the Whigs are to know nothing.

And what are to be the characteristics of this "secret organization?" It may not be amiss to look at one or two of them. The Circular admits that the State has been shamefully misgoverned for several years past, and its treasury most unmercifully plundered; and that the strength of the party has been in consequence greatly shaken. This is a candid confession, truly; but we doubt very much if it would ever have been made had the writers thought it would come to the knowledge of the mass of their friends. It is, and always has been, the policy of the Loco leaders to keep such facts from the sight of their partisans. Delusion is a part of their system of tactics, and they can no more keep their party together by fair and straight forward sailing, than they can move the earth. This will open the eyes of many.

The coming proposition, however, is the means they propose to preserve the ascendancy of their party. "Let our friends see to securing a large majority of the Judges and Inspectors of the election, and we will then have no trouble." There is no mistaking this language. They know the people are against them, and they would therefore adopt this foul and dishonest means of thwarting their will.—No wonder they desired their Circular to be kept secret, from the mass of their friends and the Whigs, for the heart of every right-thinking man must revolt at the idea of such a conspiracy to defeat the solemn verdict of the people at the ballot-box. There is some virtue, however, still left in the Republic. Some of those upon whom they counted in carrying out this unholy plot, and to whom they sent a copy, have come forward and fearlessly exposed the conspiracy and its authors. Let the people mark the men who would thus have deliberately injured them.

The Circular is full of falsehoods, and the most unblushing impudence; but we have become so used to this kind of slang, that we will not prolong this article to notice it more particularly. After reading this letter, the people will no longer wonder why nothing calculated to revive business and gladden the hearts of the people, is done at Harrisburg. No good can be done by men, who occupy the time which should be devoted to the business of their constituents, in hatching such villainous projects.—What will the people think of men who daily talk of retrenchment and reform, and at the same time charge the State with hundreds of dollars for postage on such Circulars, by an abuse of the franking privilege. Let the people read the Circular, and seriously reflect upon it.

There were passengers from nine different States on board the steamer Allegheny on a recent trip from Cincinnati to Pitsburg, and a vote was taken which resulted as follows:  
CLAY 36  
Van Buren, Cass and Calhoun 16  
Majority for Clay —20

The Washington Tragedy.

The past week has been one of awful solemnity to the nation. The particulars which we publish to-day, of the dreadful calamity on board the Princeton, have spread a gloom over the country such as has not existed since the death of the good and venerated Harrison.—Death has made frightful havoc among some of our most distinguished men, and the country cannot but suffer severely from their loss. The loss to the friends and families of the deceased, has also been great, and we sympathize most sincerely with those who have been so suddenly and unexpectedly bereaved. Truly in the midst of life we are in death.

The State Conventions.

The Whig and the Loco Foco State Conventions, were both held at Harrisburg on Monday last, but we have not yet heard the result of either of their deliberations. On Sunday nearly all the Delegates had arrived, and Harrisburg was crowded with them and other prominent politicians. It was not certain then who would be the nominees for Governor,—but the general impression was that the Whigs would nominate JUDGE BANKS, and the Locos HENRY A. MUELENBERG. We shall be able to communicate all next week.

Mark your Enemies.

On Saturday last Mr. Cooper, of Adams County, offered a Resolution in the House of Representatives, of this State, declaring it to be "the duty of Congress to protect American Industry against the competition of foreign pauper labor," which was adopted by a vote of 58 to 38. But our three learned and illustrious Representatives, Smith, of Monroe, and Hineine and Bachman, of Northampton, voted against it; thereby wishing to place the labor of freeborn and independent Americans against that of pauper ten cent a day labor of Europe. Let the people remember this next fall, when those worthies will no doubt ask for a re-election.

Death of a Member of Congress.

We are sorry to announce that the champion of Whig principles, General HENRY FRICK, member of Congress, from the Northumberland District, in this State, died at Washington, on Friday morning last, of consumption. He was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, and his death will be very generally lamented.

The Whigs of Michigan.

The right spirit prevails among our Whig friends in Michigan. They are forming Clay Clubs all over the State, to promote the establishment of their principles. To impart an idea of their enthusiasm, we need only state that the Officers of the Oakland County Clay Club, at Pontiac, have advertised for a building 3000 feet square in which to hold their meetings. They had successively tried all the large rooms in the place, and were obliged to adjourn from one to another for want of sufficient room.

A Washington letter writer says:—"Among the mysteries of this melancholy affair, (the explosion on the Princeton,) I have seen a ring of value, and a rich purse, picked up on the deck, which cannot be traced to their owners. The purse was found in a pocket, which had been evidently blown off from some one's dress. Its contents were gold, silver and paper. The articles cannot be traced to either of the sufferers. No one is known to be missing."

New Jersey—Convention for a new Constitution.

A bill has been introduced in Council to repeal the act of last year dividing the State into Congressional Districts. An act has passed by both Houses, providing for the election of delegates to a state Convention for framing a new constitution for that state. The election will be held in the several counties and townships in the state, on the 18th day of March next. The delegates chosen are to meet at Trenton on the 14th day of May, to frame a constitution which they are subsequently to deliver, duly signed by the officers, to the Governor of the State, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State.

Death of Nicholas Biddle.

It has been known for some months that Nicholas Biddle's health had been greatly impaired. We are now compelled to announce his death, which occurred about 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, at Andalusia. He was about 58 years of age. For several years he represented this city in the State Legislature, and, as all will recollect was for a long time President of the United States Bank. He leaves a widow, several children, and numerous friends to mourn his loss.—[Forum.]

The York (Pa.) Gazette, states, that there are two persons in Monaghan township, in that county, in the prime of life, each of whom are the fathers of 24 children!

From the National Intelligencer, of Thursday last.  
**MOST AWFUL AND MOST LAMENTABLE CATASTROPHE!**

Instantaneous death, by the bursting of the large gun on board the United States ship Princeton, of Secretary Upshur, Secretary Gilmer, Commodore Kennon, and Virgil Maxcy, Esq.

In the whole course of our lives it has never fallen to our lot to announce to our readers a more shocking calamity—shocking in all its circumstances and concomitants—than that which occurred on board the U. S. Ship Princeton, yesterday afternoon, whilst under way, in the river Potomac, fourteen or fifteen miles below this city.

Yesterday was a day appointed by the courtesy and hospitality of Capt. Stockton, Commander of the Princeton, for receiving as visitors to his fine ship (lying off Alexandria) a great number of guests, with their families, liberally and numerous invited to spend the day on board.

The day was most favorable, and the company was large and brilliant, of both sexes; not less probably in number than four hundred, among whom were the President of the United States, the Heads of the several Departments, and their families. At a proper hour, after the arrival of the expected guests, the vessel got under way and proceeded down the river, to some distance below Fort Washington.

During the passage down, one of the large guns on board (carrying a ball of 225 pounds) was fired more than once, exhibiting the great power and capacity of that formidable weapon of war. The ladies had partaken of a sumptuous repast; the gentlemen had succeeded them at the table, and some of them had left it.

The vessel was on her return up river, opposite to the fort, where Captain Stockton consented to fire another shot from the same gun, around and near which, to observe its effects, many persons had gathered, though by no means so many as on similar discharges in the morning, the ladies who then thronged the deck being on this fatal occasion almost all between decks, and out of reach of harm.

The gun was fired. The explosion was followed, before the smoke cleared away so as to observe its effect, by shrieks of wo which announced a dire calamity. The gun had burst, at a point three or four feet from the breech, and scattered death and desolation around.

Mr. Upshur, Secretary of State; Mr. Gilmer, so recently placed at the head of the Navy, Commodore Kennon, one of its gallant officers, Virgil Maxcy, lately returned from a diplomatic residence at the Hague, Mr. Gardiner, of New York, (formerly a member of the Senate of that State,) were among the slain.

Besides these, seventeen seamen were wounded, several of them badly and probably mortally. Among those stunned by the concussion, we learn not all seriously injured, were Capt. Stockton himself; Col. Benion, of the Senate; Lieutenant Hunt, of the Princeton; W. D. Robinson, of Georgetown.

Other persons also were perhaps more or less injured, of whom, in the horror and confusion of the moment, no certain account could be obtained. The above are believed, however, to comprise the whole of the persons known to the public who were killed or dangerously or seriously hurt.

The piteous grief of the unhurt but heart-stricken spectators! The wounded seamen borne down below! The silent tears and quivering lips of their brave and honest comrades, who tried in vain to subdue or conceal their feelings! What words can adequately depict a scene like this?

The scene upon the deck may more easily be imagined than described. Nor can the imagination picture to itself the half of its horrors. Wives, widowed in an instant by the murderous blast. Daughters smitten with the heart-rending sight of their father's lifeless corpse! The wailings of agonized females!

The bodies of the killed remained on board the ship last night. They will be brought to the city this morning.

From the Washington Globe.

POSTSCRIPT.—We stop the press to announce a most lamentable catastrophe which occurred on board the Princeton steamer this evening. By the bursting of one of the great guns, the Secretary of State, Mr. Upshur; the Secretary of the Navy, Gov. Gilmer; Commodore Kennon, Chief of the Bureau of Construction of the Navy; Virgil Maxcy, Esq., and Mr. Gardiner, of Southampton, N. York, were instantly killed; and six sailors are reported badly wounded. One of the President's servants, a colored man, has since died.

Colonel Benton and Captain Stockton were slightly injured. The accident happened about three o'clock, some two or three miles below Alexandria. Colonel Benton's injury arose not from any fragment of the gun but merely from the concussion. He was at the butt of the gun, taking its range when it fired. He was not sensible of its stunning effect until he had called for aid to the bleeding sailors.

He was stunned for a time, but was enabled to walk after reaching the shore, and has given a distinct account of the dreadful scene. Captain Stockton was burned by the powder but not seriously injured.

Captain Stockton having, on successive days, extended invitations to visit his ship to the executive and committees of Congress, and then to both Houses—invited the ladies of the city to an entertainment on this, which was meant as the gala-day of his beautiful ship. It opened brightly, but has closed in the most dreadful gloom over our community.

The only circumstance calculated to relieve the all-pervading distress, is, that of the multitude of ladies who were on board the ship; not one was injured. The happy exemption of such

a multitude of the tender sex, who witnessed the havoc made in the midst of them of the most distinguished and beloved of their countrymen, while it brings some solace to the circle of their immediate friends, cannot but deepen the sympathies which they, and the whole community, feel for the bereaved families of those who have fallen.

Mr. Upshur and Mr. Gilmer were idols in the happy family by which each was surrounded. The elder children of Mr. Gilmer are just grown; the younger still in the nurse's arms. Commodore Kennon, Mr. Maxcy, and Mr. Gardiner are all torn from family endearments—from wives and children.

We understand that Mrs. Gilmer was upon the deck when her husband fell. It was the third discharge of the gun (and fired at the request of Mr. Gilmer) that burst it. The daughter of Mr. Upshur, several of the family of Com. Kennon, and the daughters of Mr. Gardiner, were on board the steamer; but none of them, except Mrs. Gilmer, were apprized of the death of those most dear to them, until after their return to the city. Almost all the ladies were below, at dinner, when the catastrophe occurred. Mrs. Gilmer was brought to the city almost in a state of distraction.

There were two hundred ladies on board, and during the two discharges of the gun, were on the deck; and many of them approached very near to observe the course of the ball after it struck the water. President Tyler was there also, but had attended the ladies to dinner before the third discharge.

A Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun has the following mention of persons wounded in the Princeton:—

After my letter was gone last night, a number of the wounded seamen were conveyed to the Navy Yard in hammocks, and thence to the Naval Hospital.

John Kissick, of Philadelphia, lacerated, wounded, and very badly burned.

Charles Lewis, of Pennsylvania, incised wound—bad.

James M. Green, New York city, contusion on the leg.

William H. Taylor, of Boston, both legs badly fractured.

John Potter, of Litchfield, Maine, contused leg.

William H. Canning, of Burlington, N. J., one of his legs very badly burned, the other not so severe.

Joseph Traiso, of Boston, wounded on the hip.

Charles H. Robinson, of Philadelphia, slight wound in the head.

James H. Dunn, of Maine, severe contusion on the left side—very dangerous.

There are on board—

Peter Boreas, a Swede, badly injured.

Joseph Wells, an Englishman, slightly wounded.

Daniel Harrington and Hugh Kelley, slightly wounded.

Mr. Robt King, gunner, was severely wounded, but is better to-day.

Circular Letter

Of a Committee appointed by the Democratic Members of the Legislature.

We address you on behalf of the democratic members of the Senate and House of Representatives; and we address you on a subject of vital interest to the success of the Democratic party, in a contest, which is about to commence, of unexampled importance. The Presidential and Governatorial election takes place next fall: to rally our friends at the polls with spirit, energy and success, requires time, labor, skill and activity. Organization, therefore, is the only guarantee against a signal defeat: organization, too, which shall reach every township in the Commonwealth, and enlist the hearty co-operation of every democrat. The principles which are identified with the democratic party are surely worth preserving, but it is for every friend of the party to decide for himself, whether the faith of his fathers shall be maintained in its purity, or be struck down forever by the triumph of Federalism in two consecutive elections. In the contest which is approaching, all the ingenuity which federal whigery can put in motion will be resorted to; all the plans which a bad cause never fails to bring into the field, will be marshalled, drilled, and armed with falsehoods for the occasion.—The democratic members, therefore, anxious to arouse their brethren throughout the state to a sense of the danger which threatens their cause and their principles, have determined to make an effort to save the party from defeat, secure its principles and rescue this good old Commonwealth from the inglorious position she took in the campaign of 1840. As a preliminary measure to the great contest in the fall, the Whigs have determined, if possible, to secure a large number of the Judges and Inspectors at the spring election; if they are successful in this, you will readily perceive the power which the opposition will wield. It is distinctly understood that the Whig party intend to secure an advantage in the manner we have indicated. It, therefore, becomes the duty of every democrat to exert himself and arouse his friends, and warn them of the danger which threatens his ward, borough or township, and thus secure a large turnout at the election for Judges and Inspectors. This done, we shall have the vantage ground, and an easy victory will be the result. The democratic members desire that you would communicate these facts to such of your political friends in your ward, borough or township, as will take an interest in adopting such measures as will uphold and sustain the party. It is not necessary to make an appeal to your patriotism or love of country to enter heartily into this measure; the bleeding condition of your country appeals with sufficient force to your sympathies, and the prostrate con-

dition of the democratic party in 1840, it is hoped, is a sufficient inducement to arouse every friend to exertion and action.

The contents of this letter should be made known only to such of our friends as will keep their own council, and assist in organizing the party; and it is very desirable that it should not appear in any newspaper, or be communicated to our political opponents. The most efficient organization can be made without noise or confusion.

We desire to open a correspondence with the active men in your county, and for that purpose you will please forward the names of such persons and their Post Offices to the committee as you think will take a part in organizing the State.

POST OFFICE WHEN AT HOME.

- Edward A. Penniman, Philadelphia.
- A. L. Rounsfort, "
- Henry W. Smith, Reading, Berks county.
- Jefferson K. Heckman, Easton, Northampton co.
- John B. Sterigere, Norristown, Montgomery co.
- Joseph Baily, Parkersville, Chester co.
- Asa Dimock, Montrose, Susquehanna co.
- Obed Edson, Russellburg, Warren co.
- W. Merryfield, Hyde Parke, Luzerne co.
- Daniel L. Sherwood, Munsfield, Tioga co.
- Alex. Brackenridge, Pitsburg, Allegheny co.
- James R. Snowden, Franklin, Venango co.
- William P. Shattuck, Meadville, Crawford co.
- John Hill, Ligonier, Westmoreland co.
- James Macmanus, Bellefonte, Centre co.
- Solomon Shindel, Graiz, Dauphin co.
- William Bigler, Clearfield, Clearfield co.
- Samuel N. Baily, Dillsburg, York co.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Harrisburg, January 1844.

P. S. During the session of the Legislature the committee will of course be addressed at Harrisburg.

To Frighten a Locofoco.

We are indebted to an exchange paper for the following receipt:—"Take a notice of the formation of a Clay Club and a Locofoco acknowledgment of the unpopularity of Van Buren—mix these with Van Buren's letter against the principles and detail of the present Tariff, shake them well together; and when the patient turns up the white of his eyes, and becomes uneasy, administer the whole mixture at a dose, and lock him up in a room with a portrait of Clay, and a statement of the result of the election of 1840. He will not recover until after the inauguration of 'Harry of the West' as President in 1745."

The Philadelphia Forum says: that Attorney General Nelson officiates as Secretary of State, and Com. Warrington as Secretary of the Navy. Public opinion seems to point to the Hon. R. Saunders, of North Carolina, as the head of the Navy Department, and Mr. Nelson it is thought will be nominated to the office he now officiates in.

Cost of a Charge for the "Big Gun."

It is stated that the amount of powder used for a charge, in loading the gun of the steamer Princeton with ball, was thirty five pounds; the charge used when the gun burst, was but twenty five pounds. The actual weight of the ball is said to be two hundred and thirty pounds—  
35 lbs. of cannon powder at 20 per lb. \$ 7 00  
230 lbs. iron ball, at 4 cts. per lb. \$ 20  
\$ 27 00

Pennsylvania Iron.

New iron works have just been established, at Venango, Pennsylvania. The iron is said to be equal, if not superior, to Juniata. The whole establishment is now in order and perfection, and the "regulator" of the power excites curiosity. It is a "fly-wheel" 42 feet in circumference, cast iron rim of several tons, and turns with fearful velocity, making 140 revolutions in a minute, a speed sufficient to perform a journey of 25,000 miles, or once round the earth in 16 days.

David Frame, Esq. Sheriff of Chester county, died on Saturday last.

DIED.

At the residence of his son-in-law, in Stroud township, on Monday evening last, after a long and lingering sickness, Mr. CHRISTIAN STARNER, aged 82 years.

Joseph Smith's Estate.  
NOTICE.

The undersigned, appointed by the Orphans' Court of Monroe County, to make distribution of the money in the hands of George Smith, Administrator of the Estate of Joseph Smith, late of Tobyhanna township, in said County, deceased, will attend to the duties of his appointment, on Saturday the sixth day of April next, at the Prothonotary's Office, in Stroudsburg, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. when and where all persons having claims against said estate, are required to present them, or be debarred from coming in for a share of such assets.

J. H. STROUD, Auditor.

Stroudsburg, March 7, 1844.—4t.

Pike County, SS.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Whereas there is a certain fund now in the Court of Common Pleas of said county, arising from the sale of the real estate, of William B. Holbert, therefore all persons having any claim on the same, are required to present them to the Prothonotary's Office, in Milford, on Tuesday the 2d day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, or be debarred from coming upon the said fund.

OSCAR H. MOTT,

Auditor to ascertain liens.  
Milford, Feb. 29, 1844.—4t.