

To the People of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

The undersigned Senators of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, duly elected, returned, and qualified according to the Constitution and Laws, and composing a majority of that body, are called upon, by the novel and dangerous circumstances which have attended the meeting of the Legislature, to lay before the people of the State a brief account of the occurrences at the Seat of Government, on the fourth day of December, 1838, in order that they may clearly understand the position in which their representatives are now placed by an illegal and insurrectionary assemblage of persons at present in the borough of Harrisburg.

On the fourth day of December, 1838, being the day fixed by the Constitution for the meeting of the General Assembly, the Senate, and a number of gentlemen elected to fill the places of Senators whose terms of service had expired, and others chosen to supply vacancies which had occurred by death and resignation, met at the Hall of the Senate, and there appearing to be a quorum of the Senators then duly qualified present, the Speaker of the Senate called to order, and reported, that during the recess of the Senate he had issued writs of election to supply the places of the following Senators, viz: Alex. M. Peltz, late of the Second Senatorial District, and deceased; Cornelius Darragh of the nineteenth District, and David R. Porter of the eighth District, resigned; and then the Secretary of the Commonwealth being introduced, presented to the Senate the returns of the said election.

On motion of Mr. Fullerton, it was ordered that the Clerk of the Senate do now open and read the returns of the said elections, when it appeared that from the said returns, the following gentlemen had been duly elected Senators, viz: Frederick Fraley, from the 1st District. James Hanna, do. 2d do. John Strohm, do. 6th do. William F. Coplan, do. 18th do. John H. Ewing, do. 17th do. John Killinger, do. 7th do. Samuel Hayes, do. 22d do. Thomas S. Bell, do. 3d do.

And that William Wagner had been elected from the Second District, in place of Alex. Peltz, deceased; Thomas Williams, from the 10th District, in place of Cornelius Darragh, resigned, and that the returns from the Eighth Senatorial District were perfect and regular, as to render it impossible, without an investigation of the facts set forth by them, to admit any of them at that time.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Pearson, and Senator from Mercer, moved the return from the Eighth Senatorial District be postponed for the present, which Mr. Fraley, a Senator from Schuylkill county, moved to amend by striking out all after the word resolved, and inserting that "Thomas S. Bell, of Chester, be now admitted and sworn as a member of the Senate. The Speaker decided that the amendment was not in order; that Mr. Bell was undoubtedly entitled to a seat on the return which had been regularly communicated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth; that a Senator did not acquire a right to a seat by motion, but by the election of the people, and the return of that election regularly made; and Mr. Pearson's motion was then agreed to.

Mr. Charles Brown, of the county of Philadelphia, then went to the Clerk's table and tendered a paper, which he stated to be a certified copy of the returns of the election for Senator in the Second District, but was informed by the Speaker that such a paper could not be then received, as the return of the said election was then in possession of the Senate, transmitted officially by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Mr. Carpenter, a Senator from the county of Westmoreland, then offered a Resolution, "That the Secretary of the Commonwealth be directed to furnish to the Senate, all papers in his office addressed to the Senate, and moved that the Senate proceed to the second reading and consideration thereof; and on that question, viz: Proceeding to the consideration of the Resolution, Mr. Pearson & Mr. Carpenter asked the yeas and nays.

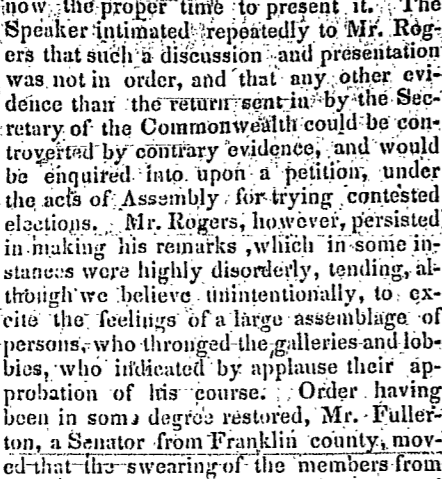
Mr. Carpenter, a Senator from Berks county, then rose and commenced addressing the Senate, but was informed by the Speaker that he was not in time not in order, as the yeas and nays were not to be taken until the yeas and nays were taken. Mr. Charles Brown then appealed from the decision of the Chair, and this appeal having been stated by the Clerk, the Speaker addressed the Senate, stating that he entertained the following views of the constitution of that body: "That at the time of the adoption of the present Constitution of the Commonwealth, the Senate had been regularly organized, and had continued always to be an organized body, bound by certain written laws for its government, which could only be altered by the deliberate action of the body; that the rules forbade any debate on the motion then pending; and that until the newly returned members were duly qualified as Senators they were not entitled to speak or vote on any other question than the election of a Speaker. Mr. Rogers then withdrew his appeal, and the question being taken by yeas and nays, the Senate refused to consider the Resolution offered by Mr. Carpenter, there being a resolution of the Senate department for information to lay over for one day.

On motion, the Senate proceeded to elect a Speaker, and the names of the Senators and the returned member, with the exception of the several claimants from the 8th District, being called by the Clerk, it appeared that Charles B. Penrose had received 18 votes, Samuel L. Carpenter 9; and the Clerk then announced that Charles B. Penrose was duly elected Speaker of the Senate, whereupon Mr. Penrose took the Chair, and after making his acknowledgments to the Senate, was duly sworn as Speaker, by Mr. Carpenter. The Speaker then called the newly returned members to the Clerk's table to take their oaths and affirmations as members of the Senate, according to the Constitution.

The Carlisle Herald and Expositor.

HERALD & EXPOSITOR.

BY GEORGE M. PHILLIPS.



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The most extraordinary and alarming condition of things now prevails in this Commonwealth. The regular action of the government is overthrown by a combination of evil disposed persons. The Senate and House of Representatives have been dispersed, and prevented assembling by tumultuous and riotous multitudes. The lives of the members have been threatened, and put in jeopardy; officers of the state government have been designated as the objects of attack. Officials of the General Government are now present, instigating these illegal and dangerous proceedings. What are the objects of these outrages? Nothing less than a treasonable attempt to destroy the present government, and erect another in its stead. It is perfectly well known that a new Constitution has been adopted by the people of this Commonwealth, which must be established in force, according to the requisitions of the late Convention, and the acts of the Legislature. The Senate and the House are prevented by force from assembling, and this object must be defeated—the People reduced to the deplorable condition of being without a Constitution of their own selection, and governed by an unlawful assembly, who choose to prescribe the manner and form in the authorities of this land shall discharge their functions.

We charge this criminal design upon leading members of a party who seek, (but without effect) cunningly to save themselves from the penalties of the law, to which they expose the victims of their designs—the misguided multitude whom they instigate to these dreadful acts.

There are persons now in this borough who control the proceedings of the existing mobs; at whose word they disappear:—at whose bidding they return. The Senate and House of Representatives are prepared to proceed to the discharge of their duties. Forcibly prevented, the consequence must fall upon the heads of the guilty persons urging or abetting the violence.

We make this public declaration that people may be aware of the true state of things. The honor and character of the judiciary here residing, imperatively demand that every legal proceeding be adopted to maintain the peace and restore good order.

The due operation of the laws may be suspended, but cannot be put to rest forever. We give to all persons and parties engaged in the recent acts of violence, and in preparations for their continuance this solemn notice, that their acts are such as have exposed them to the highest penalties of the law. We repeat that it is the design of certain persons to overturn the laws—to defeat the inauguration of Governor and the proclamation of the adoption of the New Constitution.

The pretence of all these acts of outrage is that certain members of the Senate and House, have been admitted on the returns known to the law, to take their seats without having been duly elected. This pretence is utterly false. Endeavors are made to over-awe the Senate and the House by violence, in order to prevent the disclosure of the enormous frauds perpetrated in the county of Philadelphia. They know that these frauds can be proved—that they dare not invite an investigation, and are resolved to seat their partisans by force—prevent the regular meeting of the Legislature until after the time allowed for the investigation of the elections by law; thus concealing those frauds; while the returned members from the city and county of Philadelphia ask, and earnestly desire this investigation.

Inflammatory meetings have been held, and writings published and widely circulated, in order to forestall public sentiment; while the friends of the Constitution and the Laws, have been restrained by men secretly armed against uttering the truth to the people. The time will come when they will be heard—when the laws will be executed, and suspended justice redressed. A party who resort to the aid of mobs to sustain them cannot be in the right. We let the people know the truth. They will decide the question by the condign punishment of the authors of these outrages, so disgraceful to the character of this state and to our free institutions.

Signed in behalf of the members of the House of Representatives, driven from its Hall. T. S. CUNNINGHAM, Speaker.

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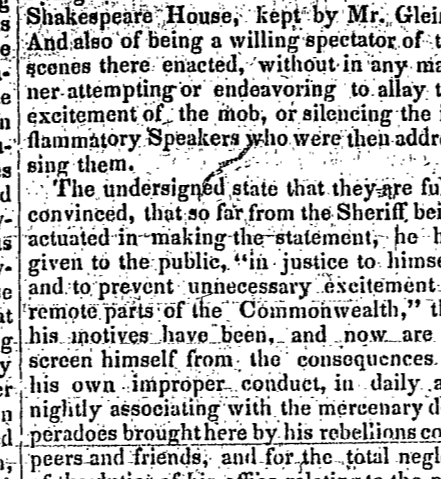
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The undersigned, citizens of Harrisburg and other parts of Pennsylvania, have seen with emotions of surprise and indignation, a most extraordinary document, dated Sheriff's Office, Borough of Harrisburg, Dec. 8th, 1838, and signed William Cochran, High Sheriff of Dauphin county, which for barefaced misrepresentation and downright perversion of the truth, is unrivalled in the annals of imposture and falsehood. They are however not surprised at the declaration, that the Sheriff "had not seen or heard of any infuriated mobs or riotous proceedings, which required (his) interposition to preserve the peace," because the Sheriff himself, if not an active participant was an aider and abettor in the "riotous proceedings" of the past week. Nor was anything else than gross misrepresentation to be expected from the man who publicly declared on Tuesday evening last, that "Thaddeus Stevens would be no more by the next morning," and again subsequently, that Thaddeus Stevens ought to be hanged. Sheriff Cochran, when he adopted that part of his address, prepared for him for the express purpose of abusing the public mind as to the true state of things, which had transpired at Harrisburg, which states that "I have been at all times ready and anxious to preserve the peace and quiet of the Borough of Harrisburg," must have forgotten that he was an eye witness to an "infuriated mob" hallooing and blaspheming along Locust street in this borough, hurling bricks and other missiles, and actually knocking down with them, and wounding

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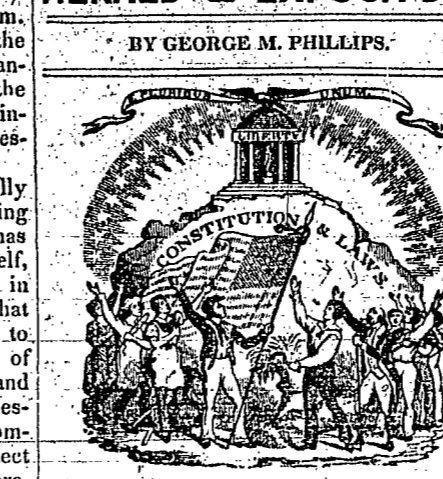
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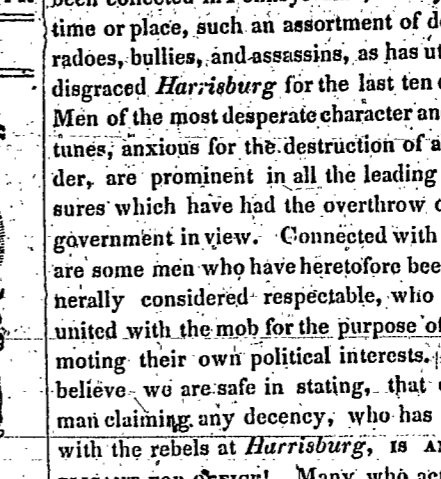
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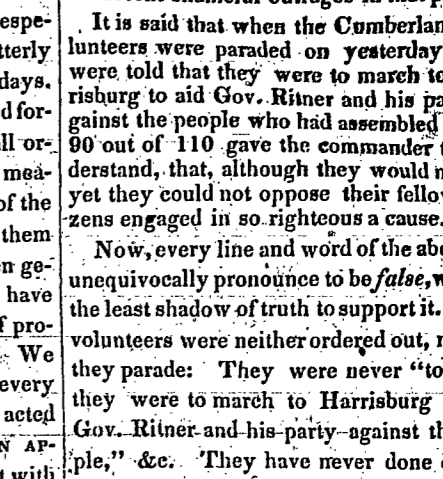
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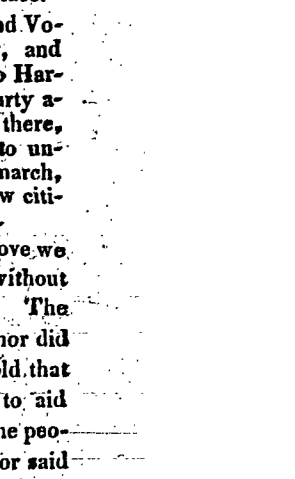
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Do you take, kind patrons? We trust that those of our friends who have any of the "ready rhino" on hand, and who at the same time know themselves to be indebted to us for subscription, advertising, job work, or what not, will call on us in the least time imaginable, and hand over to us what we are justly entitled to.

TEXAS AND THE INDIANS.—The attention of the reader will be attracted by the resolution introduced into the Texas House of Representatives relative to lodging information with the government of the United States that the Indians within her jurisdiction are levying war against a neighboring friendly power. What will the government do? The Indians complained of are among those removed by the United States government, and are held under their control and management, and it is not just that they should be allowed to prey upon our neighbors.

A Sudden Fortune.—The New Orleans Picayune tells a story of a man, who arrived in that city recently, after being absent several years. When he went away he was the owner of a lot on which was a small tenement, which he had left in charge of an old woman. He started in search of his house, and after traversing a considerable part of the city, he came to where he thought ought to be the locality of his old house. He looked about, but every where tall and magnificent buildings met his eye; his diminutive edifice was no where to be found, but the spot where it formerly stood was the site of one of these splendid establishments.

William Cochran, the "High Sheriff of Dauphin county," who is known to be a supple tool in the hands of the leading loco focos there, has issued a proclamation, in which he is made to state, that he has not seen or heard of any infuriated mobs or riotous proceedings, which required his interposition to preserve the peace! He is further made to say, that he has heard of no threats against any man's life or property, although it has been proved that he himself declared to a Mr. McCoy, that the life of Mr. Stevens would be taken! Did he not know that the lives of Messrs. Penrose and Burrows were also threatened on various occasions by his political friends? Did he not know that Wilson's hotel was threatened to be torn down, unless the proprietor prevented the whig members of the legislature from holding their sessions in one of his rooms? Did he not know of the riotous proceedings of the mob in the Senate chamber, in the hall of the House, and at the Arsenal? Did he not know that, during the past week, Harrisburg presented a continual scene of outrages, uproar, and tumult, which called for the speedy and unceasing interposition of every honest conservator of the peace?

New-York Mirror.—No. 24 of this publication has been received at this office. The editor is requested to send us the preceding numbers of the present volume. The number just received is excellent, and shall be noticed more fully in our next.

We will devote the next number of our paper almost entirely to the late scenes enacted at Harrisburg, in which we will give all the facts that have a bearing on the subject, from beginning to end.