The Carlisle Herald and Expositor.

MESSAGE.

from Governor Ritner.

Communicating a statement of the relation in which this Government has been placed to a portion of its citizens and to the Executive of the Union.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

Availing myself of the only opportunity which the temporary adjournment of the Legislature allows me, I think it right to communicate to you a statement of the relations in which this Government has been placed to a deserving portion of its citizens, and to the Executive of the Union.

It is with regret that I recall the attention of the Legislature to the scenes of violence and disorder which so long suspended the functions of Government in this Commonwealth. What then occurred has become matter of history. I do not mean now to dwell more than is necessary upon a topic, which is painful, as affecting the character of our popular institutions. Believing that an emergency had risen of so extreme a nature as to demand the exercise of what may be considered the extraordinary powers vested in me by the constitution and laws, I issued an order to two divisions of Pensylvania militia, to march to Harrisburg to protect the Legislature in the discharge of its duties. That order was promptly obeyed, and I had the satisfaction of witnessing the alacrity with which the citizen soldiers of the Commonwealth repaired to the standard which the constitution authorised me to raise, in a crisis of public danger. Upwards of one thousand men marched to Harrisburg and remained in service until it was thought proper to disband them. A large majority of these soldiers were young men, dependent on their daily industry for their daily bread. Brought by the constitutional order from their homes at a season of the year when an interruption of business is most to be avoided, some of them leaving their families at a notice too short to make provisions for even a limited absence, they cheerfully acquiesced in the necessity which existed. The excellent discipline by which they were regulated, the propriety of their deportment, the sacrifices of all differences of opinion to the supremacy of the laws, which they were called on to maintain, are worthy of all commendation.

Nor was the result of this movement other than was hoped. The presence of the militia at once repressed the violence of the mob. The process of judicial authority was executed. The Senate resumed its functions and order and tranquility was restored. But for this timely intervention, the wishes of the people as recently expressed in adopting an amended Constitution would have been defeated, and the constituted officer prevented from counting votes given on that important question. The use which in any apprehended exigency I might have been called on to make of the force placed at my disposal was duly and anxiously considered, and such a decision made as I believed the people would have authorized. Herewith communicate an official letter from the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, prepared by my directions, and which indicated the course which I intended to pursue.

Had the necessity for issuing the orders to the divisions of the militia been less than it was, their claims for compensation and indemnity for their time would be the same. I am not disposed to mingle this question with any other. I mean now to present it to the Legislature, as a claim on the state for services rendered, under a constitutio nal order by deserving and patriotic citizens.—The military who came to Harrisburg, are in no sense answerable for the order which they obeyed. The responsibility of that order rests on him who issued it. Deep indeed would be the dishonor, if any impulse of faction, should extend that responsibility to others to whom it does not belong, and thus defeat the simple claims, resulting from the faithful discharge of a military duty. I cannot believe that the Commonwealth will be made subject to such a reproach.

I did not believe that I should be compelled to bring this to your consideration. The 63d section of the militia law, authorizes the Governor "in all cases of emergency, where money may be wanted, to organize, furnish or supply the militia of the Commonwealth, who may be called into actual service, to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, for such sum or sums of money, and to dispose of it in such manner as the exigency of the case may require." Under this section warrants were drawn on the State Treasurer, which that officer has refused to pay. The letter of the law is plain, and unless the State Treasurer and not the Governor, is to judge of the emergency, the duty of the Treasurer under the law is equally plain. The power of the Legislature to give redress in a case in which the rights of a portion of our fellow citizens have been thus injuriously resisted is complete. The State Treasurer who has arrogated to himself an authority which the law never conferred on him, is the officer of the Legislature, and in the first place responsible to them. I, therefore, confidently solicit your early attention to a claim founded on justice and authorized by law. Every hour's delay is an hour's injustice. The disbursing officer will submit at any moment a statement of the amount which will be required.

In connection with this subject, I must recall the attention of the Legislature to another of perhaps equal interest. At the time when the domestic violence occurred of which I have already spoken, I considered that I should be wanting in my duty, as the Chief Executive Magistrate of the Commonwealth, if any measure of precaution were omitted. Application was therefore made to the President of the United States, for the assistance, which by the constitution of the Union, he is bound to give. The correspondence which followed is already before the people. To your judgment on it I cheerfully defer. I do not again allude to it, but the action of the federal authorities of the state and federal governments should be too carefully guarded. In a copy and delicate organization of moderate institutions, such as are involved, there is danger to our glorious system of constitutional republicanism. It has been my lot more than once during my official term to reprobate the interference of agents of the Federal Government in the domestic concerns of the commonwealth. The conduct which I had felt called on to hold up to the indignation of the people, whether the intrigues of a foreign country to wound the credit of the state; or more recently the undisguised violence at the seat of government, was the conduct of mere subordinates.—Until proved to be so by the late correspondence, I never imagined that the highest functionaries of the general government could be actuated by a similar spirit, or would, when called to exercise the protecting power with which the constitution has invested them, willingly assume the attitude of partizans, and lend themselves to a deliberate effort to insult the constituted authorities of a state yet sovereign and independent.

To a letter addressed by the chief magistrate of this commonwealth to the President of the United States, no reply was given, the subject being referred to the Secretary of War, who assumed to be the proper organ of communication with me. Unwilling to submit to what appeared to be an indignity to the state, I declined corresponding with any other than the President, and informed him of the view I was led to take of the very exceptionable tone of his secretary's letter. In order that the correspondence may be officially before the legislature, I now communicate it with this message. It must not be supposed that on a mere point of form I placed myself in this relation to the federal authorities. The time may come when, after temporary differences shall be removed, and the conflicts which have agitated the community shall have subsided, the conduct of the chief magistrate of a state, may be looked back to as a precedent of resistance to all invasion of the rights he is bound to protect, and to any indignity to the sovereignty with which he is identified.

Herewith I communicate copies of other letters which have passed between the military officers of this state, and the Ordnance Department at Washington, to which I invite your attention, and from which it appears that the supply of munitions of war to the militia by the officer in command at the United States arsenal, in conformity with the usage sanctioned by the department, has been disapproved of, and that a formal demand has been made for a specific return of the stores. That demand I refer to you.

The position assumed by the War Department, that no supplies can be authorized for the suppression of domestic violence occasioned by *political differences*, can, I think, scarcely be sustained. The existence of domestic violence, resulting from whatever cause, creates the emergency which the constitution contemplates, and the act of Congress was meant to provide for; and strange indeed would be the doctrine, that although in disorders proceeding from other causes, the military officer may supply stores and ordnance on the requisition of the sheriff of a county or the mayor of a city, yet if in his opinion, political differences have been mingled with any tumult, he cannot interfere, though the lives of thousands might be in jeopardy or sacrificed to his scruples. The correspondence, however, is submitted to you. A return in kind of munitions supplied to the militia of the State, is impracticable. A settlement, on other terms, can be best regulated by legislative action.

The subject of this communication recalls to my recollection a topic which I had intended to embrace in the late annual communication, but which escaped my attention at the time. I allude to the present militia laws of the State. The amended constitution confers greater power on the Legislature, with respect to the militia, than was possessed under the old.—Many intelligent and patriotic citizens are of opinion, that salutary changes be made without weakening this right arm of our public safety, and that the whole law on the subject requires revision. Permit me to recommend it to your attention.

In closing this special message, the last I shall have occasion to communicate to you, I should do great injustice to my own feelings, were I to withhold the expression of the gratitude I feel to the legislative branches of the government for the many instances of support extended to me during preceding years, at times, and under circumstances that rendered such support peculiarly important. During my term I felt constrained, it is true, by considerations, that might be disregarded, to decline concurrence in the acts of the legislature on several occasions. I can however, assure you that these differences have left no unkind feelings in my breast. I have sought, and I trust, successfully, to turn from the contemplation of them, and look only at the pleasant and useful results of your common action.

When called to the chief magistracy of the State, I found her finances embarrassed, her citizens oppressed by taxation, her improvement system involved, and the still more precious system which gives the blessing of education to the children of all alike, sustaining a feeble and precarious existence. At the present time, no tax burthens the tiller of the soil, no increase of debt has been made to justify taxation hereafter, resources of easy and cheap credit are open, confidence is restored, and with it business is reviving, the school system is out of danger, the public improvements are in a condition of economical management.

But for the last disgraceful scenes, I could look back on the past with unmingled satisfaction. I feel, however, that no share of the fearful responsibility of those acts of violence rests on me. Placed, during the last part of my official term, in a position in which it was difficult to act without incurring censure from some quarter, I sought the path of duty and endeavored, with what success must be determined by our common constituents and posterity, to act as became the post I occupied. I have the gratification of knowing that the majesty of the law has been re-established, and the will of the people sustained.

JOSEPH RITNER.

Executive Chamber,
Jan. 14, 1839.

LETTER FROM GEN. HARRISON TO HON. HARMAR DENNY.

North Bend, 21 Dec. 1838.

DEAR SIR,—As it is probable that you have by this time returned to Pittsburgh, I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter from Philadelphia, containing the proceedings of the National Democratic Anti-Masonic Convention, which lately convened in that city. With feelings of the deepest gratitude, I read the resolution unanimously adopted, nominating me as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. This is the second time that I have received from that patriotic party of which you yourself are a distinguished member, the highest evidence of confidence that can be given to a citizen of our republic. I would attempt to describe my sense of the obligations I owe them, if I were not convinced that any language which I could command, would fall far short of what I really feel. If, however, the wishes of the convention should be realized, and if I should be the choice of those who are opposed to the present administration, and success should attend their efforts, I shall have it in my power to manifest my gratitude in a manner more acceptable to those whom you represent, than by any professions of it which I could at this time make: I mean by exerting my utmost efforts to carry out the principles set forth in their resolutions, by arresting the progress of those measures 'destructive to the prosperity of the people, and tending to the subversion of their liberties;' and substituting for them those sound democratic republican doctrines, upon which the administrations of Jefferson and Madison were conducted.

Among the principles proper to be adopted by an Executive sincerely desirous to restore the administration to its original simplicity and purity, I deem the following to be of prominent importance:

I. To confine his service to a single term.

II. To disclaim all right of control over the public treasure, with the exception of such part of it as may be appropriated by law to carry on the public service, and that to be applied precisely as the law may direct, and drawn from the treasury agreeably to the long established forms of that department.

III. That he should never attempt to influence the Elections, either by the people or the State Legislature, nor suffer the Federal officers under his control to take any other part in them, than by giving their own votes when they possess the right of voting.

IV. That in the exercise of the veto power, he should limit his rejection of Bills to, 1st. Such as are in his opinion unconstitutional. 2nd. Such as tend to encroach on the rights of the states, or of individuals. 3rd. Such as involving deep interests, may in his opinion require more mature deliberation or reference to the will of the people, to be ascertained at the succeeding elections.

V. That he should never suffer the influence of his office to be used for purposes of a purely party character.

VI. That in removals from office, of those who hold their appointments during the pleasure of the Executive, the cause of such removal should always be communicated to the person removed, and, if he request it, to the Senate, at the time that the nomination of a successor is made.

And last but not least in importance.

VII. That he should not suffer the Executive Department of the Government to become the source of Legislation; but leave the whole business of making the laws for the Union to be done by the Department, to which the Constitution has exclusively assigned it, until they have assumed that perfected shape where and when alone the opinions of the Executive may be heard.—A community of power in the preparation of the laws between the Legislature and the Executive Departments, must necessarily lead to dangerous computations and greatly to the advantage of a President desirous of extending his power. Such a construction of the constitution could never have been contemplated by those who framed it, as they well knew that those who propose the bills, will always take care of themselves; or the interest of their constituents, and hence the provision in the constitution, borrowed from that of England, restricting the originating of Revenue bills to the immediate Representatives of the people. So far from agreeing in opinion with the distinguished character who lately retired from the Presidency, that Congress should have applied to him for a project of a Banking System, I think that such an application would have manifested not only great subserviency upon the part of that body, but an unpardonable ignorance of the chief danger to be apprehended from such an institution. The danger unquestionably consists in an union of interests between the Executive and the Bank. Would an ambitious incumbent of the Executive chair neglect so favorable an opportunity as the preparing of the law would give him to insert in its provisions to secure his influence over it? In the authority given to the President by the constitution "to recommend to Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," it was certainly never intended that the measures he recommended should be presented in a shape suited for the immediate decision of the Legislature. The sages who made the constitution, too well knew the advantages which the Crown of England derived from the exercise of his power by its ministers, to have intended it to be used by our chief magistrate, or the heads of department under his control. The boasted principle of the English constitution that the consent of the democratic Branch of the government was not only necessary to receive money from the people, but that it was its unviolable prerogative also to originate all the bills for that purpose, is true in theory as in the letter, but rendered utterly false and nugatory in effect, by the participation of the ministers of the crown in the details of Legislation. Indeed the influence they derive from setting as members of the House of Commons, and from wielding the immense patronage of the crown (constitutional or usurped,) gives them a power over that body, that renders plausible at least the base flattery, or as it is more probable, the intended sarcasm of Sir Walter Raleigh, in an address to James the 1st. that the demand of the sovereign upon the Commons for pecuniary aid, was intended only "that the tax might seem to come from themselves," whereas the inference is, it was really laid by the sovereign himself.

Having thus given you my opinion of some things which might be done, and others which should not be done, by a President coming into power by the support of those of the people who are opposed to the principles upon which the present administration is conducted, you will see that I have omitted one, which is deemed by many of as much importance as any other. I allude to the appointment of members of Congress to office by the President. The Constitution contains no prohibition of such appointments, no doubt because its authors could not believe in its necessity, from the purity of character which was manifested by those who possessed the confidence of the people at that period. It is, however, an opinion very generally entertained by the opposition party, that the country would have escaped much of the evil under which it has suffered for some years past, if the Constitution had contained a provision of that kind. Having had no opportunity of personal observation on the conduct of the administration for the last ten years, I am unable to decide upon the truth or error of this opinion. And I should be very willing that the known subserviency of the Legislature to the Executive, in several memorable instances, should be accounted for in a way somewhat less injurious to the character of our country and Republicanism itself, than by the admission that the Fathers of the land, the trusted servants of a virtuous people could be seduced from the path of duty and honor, by the paltry trappings and emoluments of dependent offices. But if the evil really exists, and if there be good reason to believe that its source is to be found in the corruptibility of the members of the Legislature, an effectual remedy cannot be too soon applied. And it happens in this case, that there is a choice of remedies. One of those however, is in my opinion free from the objections which might be offered to the other. The one to which I object is, that which the late President has been so loudly called upon to adopt, in consequence of a promise made at the commencement of his administration, viz: that the Executive under no circumstances, should appoint to office a member of either branch of the National Legislature. There are, in my mind, several weighty reasons against the adoption of this principle. I will detain you with the mention of but two of them, because, I believe that you will agree with me, that the alternative I shall present, while it would be equally effectual, contains no feature to which a reasonable objection could be made.

As the Constitution contains no provisions to prevent the appointment of members of Congress to office by the Executive, could the Executive with a due regard to delicacy and justice, without usurping power from the people, declare a disqualification which they had not thought necessary? And where is the American citizen who regards the honor of his country, the character of its people, or who believes in the superiority of a Republican form of Government, who would be willing to proclaim to the world, that the youthful nation which has attracted so much of its attention which it has so much admired for its gigantic strength, its undaunted courage, its high attainments in literature and the arts and the external beauty of its institutions, was, within, a mass of meanness and corruption? That even the chosen servants of the people, were ever ready, for a paltry consideration, to abandon their allegiance to their lawful sovereigns, and to become the servants of a servant. The alternative to this degrading course, is to be found in depriving the Executive of all motive for acquiring an improper influence over the Legislature. To effect this, nothing in my opinion is necessary but to re-establish the principles upon which the administration was once conducted, with a single addition of limiting the service of the President to one term. A condensed enumeration of what I conceive these principles to have been, is given above.—And I think no one can doubt, that, if faithfully carried out, they would be effectual in securing the independence of the Legislature, and confining the connection between it and the Executive, to that alone which is warranted by a fair construction of the Constitution. I can conceive of but two motives which could induce a President of the United States to endeavor to procure a controlling influence over the Legislative body, viz: to perpetuate his power, by passing laws to increase his patronage—or gratify his vanity, by obtaining their sanction to his schemes and projects for the government of the country; and thus assimilating his situation to that of the limited monarchs of Europe. The principles above suggested, would effectually destroy any disposition of the person elected by the combined votes of the opposition to place himself in either attitude. Retiring at the end of four years to private life, with no wish or prospect of 'any son of his succeding,' legitimate or adopted, he would leave the Government as prosperous and pure in its administration, as when it passed from the hands of the great "Apostle of Democracy," to the Father of our Constitution.

To the duties which I have enumerated, as proper in my opinion to be performed by a President, elected by the opposition to the present administration, (and which are, as I believe of constitutional obligation,) I will mention another which I believe also to be of much importance. I mean the observance of the most conciliatory course of conduct towards our political opponents.—After the censure which our friends have so freely and so justly bestowed upon the present Chief Magistrate, for having, in no inconsiderable degree, disfranchised the whole body of his political opponents. I am certain that no oppositionist, true to the principles he professes, would approve a similar course of conduct in the person whom his vote has contributed to elect. In a Republic, one of the surest tests of a healthy state in its institutions, is the immunity with which every citizen may, upon all occasions, express his political opinions and particularly his prejudices, in the discharge of his duty as an elector.

The question may perhaps be asked of me, what security I have in my power to offer, if the majority of the American people should select me for their Chief Magistrate, that I would adopt the principles which I have herein laid down, as those upon which the Administration would be conducted,—I could only answer, by referring to my conduct, and the disposition manifested in the discharge of the duties of several important offices, which have heretofore been conferred upon me. If the power placed in my hands, has, on even a single occasion been used for any purpose than that for which it was given, or retained longer than was necessary to accomplish the objects designated by those from whom the trusts were received, I will acknowledge that either will constitute a sufficient reason for discrediting any promise I may make, under the circumstances in which I am now placed.

I am dear sir,
truly yours,
W. H. HARRISON.

To the
Honorable
HARMAR DENNY.

SPEECH OF MR. CASSAT.

Whilst the resolution to recognize the Hpokins House, was before the Senate on the 25th of December, Mr. Cassat, our late and esteemed Senator; offered an amendment to the resolution, in support of which he delivered quite an eloquent speech, an abstract of which we subjoin:

Mr. CASSAT moved to amend the amendment by striking it out and inserting, "that the Senate will recognize the House of Representatives as organized by the election of Thomas S. Cunningham as Speaker."

Mr. CASSAT said,—Mr. Speaker, I suppose I offer this amendment in vain. But as the question involves important consequences, I am desirous that the Senate be brought to a direct vote upon it. We, a few days since, by a solemn and deliberate vote, declared the Hopkins House illegally and unconstitutionally organized. It is true we did not take a vote on the other House, but there was something like an implication that it was constitutional, in the resolution we have passed.

On looking at the whole report and evidence of the committee appointed on the subject, I have no doubt the "Cunningham House" is and has been in every stage and feature constitutional, and that the other is not. It had a quorum on its organization and was organized in the usual manner, taking the returns through the channel established by law and recognized for years in the transmission of returns. And I believe that had it not been for the bullies and mob of the opposition, we should have had no trouble. The House has been disturbed, and for this reason could not meet in the Hall, but its organization had been kept up legally and no defections or desertions can destroy it.

Mr. Speaker, I deplore the present state of things at much as any man can. I feel anxious to have a House of Representatives organized on constitutional principles.—But I wish a decision of the question which has been forced upon us. I believe the Cunningham house, as I have said, was organized according to the constitution and the law; but if a majority of the senate should have a different opinion, I wish to have a direct vote on the question. I wish the Senate to say directly—if so it believes—that the Cunningham House was not so organized, as it has already declared of the Hopkins House.

It is well known that we have had great excitement and difficulty, but we should have had no trouble had all men been disposed to follow up the requisitions of law. There has been a disposition in many sections of the State to act contrary to law, and men have come here and in conjunction with members elect of the House, have combined to compel us to do unconstitutional acts, and I regret that this spirit has been constantly manifested ever since the meeting of the Legislature.

Senators say that the eight Whig members claiming seats in the House from Philadelphia county, have not been duly elected. I do not care how true this may be, as that cannot effect the matter. They were returned through the proper channel—the Seretary of the Commonwealth. If the return was illegal, the law pointed out the mode of settling the difficulty. But in these times of radicalism, when all law must fall before those by demagouges, for evil purposes, styled the "dear people," and everything must bend to political expediency, the constitution and the laws are trampled under foot by lawless mobs, who are falsely called the people.

This spirit is evident in the occurrences connected with this Philadelphia county return. The facts deserve notice. On the day the return judges for that county met, there were hundreds of unruly men in the State House, inflamatory notices having been published in the public prints calling on the people to be there, and individuals who had been candidates for the office were present urging upon the judges and commissioners the grossest usurpations and frauds. It was afterwards published that if certain persons whose names are well known and who had been candidates should be refused seats in these Halls, the streets of Harrisburg should be filled with armed men to compel the Legislature to act as they please. This well accorded with the spirit of the same mob, brought here to violate law and drive us from this Hall; and I regret to say that they have been countenanced on this floor. Yes, sir, I have heard Senators—not say they would cut our throats—but speak of "awful consequences"—as I believe, for the purpose of intimidation. The Senator from Westmoreland has even said that his constituents would act as the mob have done. If, sir, the constituents of that Senator resemble him, it may be they would act as he has said they would; but I should regret to say that any portion of those whom I have the honor to represent, could be induced to such conduct, or to countenance it with their approbation. The consequence of this spirit is, that the mob, thus encouraged, are determined to rule. Neither acts of violence nor threats of outrage from them shall influence me; but turn the question as you please, it is a contest between the laws and the mob.

Sir, I cheerfully admit that the people, in a free government like ours is, must rule, but the mob are not the people, and the people rule peacefully under and according to the constitution and the law.

I solemnly warn the senate not to pass the original resolution offered by the senator from Northampton; but I warn the senate not as I have been warned: I warn them in the spirit of peace; I warn them in the spirit of the constitution; and I warn them as they would preserve the blessings of free government and transmit them to our children, and our children's children unimpaired. But adopt that resolution, give to a lawless mob triumph over the constitution, and I do believe that there are some in this hall who will live to see the end of free government in our beloved country. It needs not a prophet to foretell with certainty, that if a portion of the people may now break down law with impunity, we shall on every exciting question hereafter have a recurrence of similar scenes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to vote. If wrong, I am responsible to the people. Let them condemn me at the ballot boxes. But if right, as I believe I am, I shall have the double gratification of the approbation of my own conscience, and the good men of all parties. And if the Senate take the course I fear it will. I shall not envy those whose votes bring about the result, the inglorious distinction they will confer upon themselves. I would not take and would not have the distinction of voting to prostrate the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth. I hope to pass the present ordeal with a clear conscience, and I have no doubt, when I go home I shall be surrounded by honest friends of all parties and receive their approbation. If, sir, this vote should be the last I shall ever give, I am ready to give it; and to answer for it to my constituents, to my country, and to my God.

THE COUNTY MEMBERS! A TEST OF LOCO FOCO HONESTY AND FAIRNESS.

The Loco Focos have constantly held up to the people, as an extenuation for their outrageous conduct at the meeting of the Legislature, that the representatives put into seats by the mob, were the legally elected representatives—and that the Democrats claiming seats under the legal return, were not elected. Two occasions have since occured to test their sincerity. The law on the subject of contested seats, renders it necessary that this question should be brought before the Legisleture within the first five days of the session.

In consequence of the Senate recognizing the Loco Foco House, which admitted the Loco Foco members from the county, by a *vote* at the organization, the Democratic members were debarred the right of contesting, because the time limited by law had expired before the Senate recognized the Rump House.

A resolution was however offered, to allow the Democratic members the right of contesting, which was voted down to a man by the Locos.

This motion was yesterday renewed by Mr. Purviance, when the question as to the election of United States Senator came up, but was again voted down by a strict party vote—every Loco voting against it.

From this the people can judge as to which set of claimants are entitled to seats—and of the opinion entertained by the Loco Focos themselves, as to the rights of those seated by the mob. If they believed that they were entitled to their seats by receiving a majority of legal votes, they would not hesitate to allow the others the right of contesting the seats. On the contrary they would invite it. But it is well known to them that four of the Democrats at least were elected by the votes returned, and that the other four would be able to obtain their seats by proving frauds of the blackest character committed by the Loco Focos. Hence they know the importance of preventing all investigation, as it would not only place them in a minority in the House, but expose their villainy to the world. Thus those who raised such a clamor about their "rights," at the meeting of the Legislature, trample upon the "rights" of *others* with exultation whenever they get the power. They exercise the utmost stretch of Tyranny and usurpation, when an opportunity offers of doing so with impunity.

With the cry of Democracy upon their tongue, they play Nero and Robespierre with as much honesty and as little respect for the "rights" of others as pirates and robbers. The refusal of the Loco Foco House of Representatives to allow the Democrats to claim their seats, will be the strongest evidence to the people as to whom the seats belong.—*Penn'a. Tellegraph.*

HALIFAX RIOTERS, CONSTABLE STRAW, CONVICTED.

Our readers generally are acquainted with the fact that in consequence of the refusal of the Loco Foco Constable at Halifax, to hold the Inspectors election according to law, the Democrats or friends of Gov. Ritner took possession of the House where the election was held, when Constable Straw and his forces fled, and opened the election in another place.

At the November term, the Grand Jury found a bill of indictment against Straw, who was tried yesterday, and found guilty, notwithstanding the greatest efforts were used by his council to prevent it. The fine in this case cannot be less than $50, and the costs are about $200, which fall to the lot of the convicted Constable to pay for having refused to do his duty, and for violating the law.

The Loco Foco organ made a great noise about the proceedings of the Democrats, calling them riotors, mobites, &c. but the decision of the court and Jury, after a fair trial will shew with what truth they have put forth such charges. We can tell the Loco Focos that notwithstanding a lie will travel a thousand miles while truth is putting on its boots, yet "Truth always proves omnipotent and *public justice* CERTAIN."—*Penn'a. Tellegraph.*

Gloriously Triumph of the People.

The letters from one of our Washington Correspondents, in another column, chronicle the overthrow of Mr. Van Buren in the popular branch of the Federal Legislature. For several weeks the Administration party in the House have combating the attempt of Mr. Wise to procure the appointment of a Committee of Investigation. They were willing to give him a Committee appointed by the Speaker; but they were unwilling to trust the House with the untrameled selection of *their own Committee.*—They could trust Mr. Polk, because they knew the reptile servility of his character; and knew very well that he would act under directions from the Treasury or the White House. They had tried his fidelity in past times. They remembered Mr. Wise's former Committee; and remembered that it was a Committe of suppression, of concealment, of apology, of vindication. They wished to play the same farce over again, and to appoint a Committee of slaves and dough faces, who would suffer themselves to be insulted by the Department, brow beaten by the witnesses, and bullied by the President. For the suitable packing of just such a Committee, they trusted to the meanness and audacity of Mr. Polk.

It is not their fault that they have been unsuccessful. They have spared neither time nor labor to defeat the institution of all inqdiry, upon the only principles which could admit of its successful prosecution.—Foremost in this battle of power against the people, has stood our own people rejected representative, Churchill C. Cambreleng. The course of this individual on this subject is alone sufficient to stamp him with infamy. Instead of coming forward and demanding in behalf of the Executive the most thorough investigation into this matter of public defalcation, he has been engaged for some six weeks in a strugle to thwart and embarrass the friends of inquiry, on the most paltry pretences, and by the interposition of every obstacle that could be raised by petty chicanery or brazen insolence. When he found that it was impossible to give the appointment of the committee to Mr. Polk, he then attempted to apply the rack and thumbscrew, and to drill the administration party into the selection of a packed Executive Committee by a *viva voce* election. He thought that Mr Van Buren would thus be able to alarm the timid, and compel the refractory, and confirm the wavering into a proper acquiescence with Executive dictation. In this also he has been disappointed.

Mr. Wise followed him up with a vigilance that never slept; a fearlessness that never quailed; a perseverance that never wearied or faltered. He urged home upon the administration the iniquities of subordinates. He held up to the House the certificate of General Jackson, as to the "integrity and ability" of the Executive departments, and demonstrated its miserable falsity. He held up to Mr. Polk a mirror which displayed his political deformity, with a truth must have startled and staggered the possessor of those hideous features even more than ordinary spectator. Day nor night has he rested in his resolute and holy purpose. Hour after hour has he held forth on the floor of Congress, till the stricken and culprit majority have withdrawn, conscious and asbamed of the enormities that have been practised by the administration, and still more deeply conscious of the double enormity of conniving at their concealment or palliation.

The speech which they refused to hear, Mr. Wise determined to speak, and did speak, and has published it to the people with a mass of accumulated testimony of profligacy and swindling, sufficient to bury any administration under its crushing and appalling weight. In the flood of light which this speech has showered upon the people, in the glow and blaze with which it has surrounded the corruption and abuse of the Government, it was impossible for the minions of the President to stand forth unsheared and unscathed.—After six weeks of scandalous and shameful opposition, the administration has been most signally defeated. In spite of all the seductions and terrors of Executive power, the people have triumphed—and to their ardent, eloquent, uncompromising, gallant and generous champion, Henry A. Wise of Virginia, belong the laurels of the victory!

We cannot but regard this victory as the presage of happier days for the republic.—It is the most glorious that has yet been won, in a long and arduous struggle against arbitrary and hitherto absolute power. The administration has met with an ignominious defeat on the battle-field where it had been taken its last hopes, and which now exhibits only the wreck of its ruined and prostrate fortunes. It demanded of its friends a sacrifice to the Executive, which would have sealed that condemnation by the constituency. Investigation was to have been suppressed; testimony was to have been stifled; abuses was to have been palliated; torn and were tattered reputations were to have been patched up; all this was to have been done with impunity, if the administration could have procured a committee of the right kind, through the instrumentality of the most cringing and unscrupulous minion of tyranny that ever disgraced an assembly purporting to be representatives of the people.

In all this the administration may be foiled—baffled—discomfited! and that too after six weeks of determined and desperate conflict. Thus in a firm and triumphant course, the people are moving forward to the purification of their institutions, and the vindication of their rightful sovereignty. One by one the frowning battlements of tyrant power totter and tumble under the well directed batteries of indignant and assailed patriotism; and the day is not far distant, when its last citadel will be stormed, and its last artillery spiked—when the glorious banner of the stars and stripes shall be again planted on the rock of the Constitution, and again rally under its protecting shadow the triumphant defenders of law protected Liberty?—*New York Courier.*

Suett, meeting Bannister, said, "I intend dining with you soon on eggs and bacon—what day shall I come, Jack?" To which the other replied, "why, if you will have that dish, you must come on a *Fry-day.*"

Why do you use tobacco? Joe.
Because, I *choose*, sir.—*News.*