



MOUNTAIN SENTINEL.

ANDREW J. RHEY, EDITOR.

EBENSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1851

THE SENTINEL, has much the largest circulation of any paper published in this county—and as an advertising sheet offers superior inducements to merchants and business men generally. Those desirous of making use of this medium for extending their business can do so by either sending their notices direct, or through the following agents: John Crouse, Esq., Johnstone, E. W. Carr, Evans' Buildings, Third St Philadelphia. V. B. Palmer, Esq., New York Philadelphia and Baltimore.

To Our Patrons.

With this number ceases our connection with the MOUNTAIN SENTINEL. We have disposed of the establishment to Mr. A. J. RHEY, of Ebensburg, by whom the paper will be hereafter conducted. Mr. Rhey, who was born and raised within the limits of Cambria county, is too well known to her citizens to require an introduction at our hands. He is, however, a young man of very considerable abilities as a writer, a sincere and devoted democrat, and entitled to the confidence and patronage of the party. It is a matter of gratification to us that we have been able to consign the establishment into the hands of a man whom we know possesses both the ability and disposition to conduct the paper in a manner that will not only be creditable to himself, but that will add to the strength and harmony of the party. We trust that the same liberal patronage which has been bestowed upon us, will be extended to him.

By this arrangement, Mr. Rhey is entitled to all that is due on subscription since the first of January last, and those who have paid in advance, will be furnished with the numbers to which they are entitled.

It is nearly seven years since we commenced the publication of the Sentinel, and the memory of the many kind favors which we have received at the hands of the citizens of Cambria, makes us surrender our post with feelings of regret. To those friends who have sustained and encouraged us during that time, we beg, in taking our leave, to tender our heartfelt acknowledgments, and to assure them that their kindness will occupy a place in our memory during life.

JOHN G. GIVEN.

To the Public.

We have the pleasure of announcing to our friends and to the patrons of the "Mountain Sentinel" that we have become the proprietor, and will in future conduct the editorial columns of this paper. In assuming this position we are aware of the disadvantages under which we labor, on account of our inexperience in political affairs, the consciousness of our inability to conduct a paper, as well as we would desire to do, and owing to the state of political feeling which has existed here for years past, whereby sections of the democratic party have been estranged from each other, and in a course of separate action have brought defeat upon the members of the party. To heal all such differences shall be our object, and we wish to be understood that we have no connection with either of the factions of the democratic party that have been battling against each other for some time past. We are not the exponent of the views or measures of any clique, or body of politicians. We have been educated in the faith and correct principles of the democratic party, to the advancement and defence of those principles our paper shall be devoted, and shall be supported to the best of our ability, rather seeking to further the interests of the party by compromise and union, than to destroy the organization of the same by an opposite course. We shall respect and advocate the will of the majority, and shall at all times be found willing to do our utmost for the regularly nominated candidates, supporting the doctrine of principles, not men. We shall strongly oppose our whig friends on account of their doctrines and their party, and shall not suffer the private character of any individual to be assailed. To the patrons and supporters of the Sentinel, we would say that we are desirous of their continuing their subscriptions and patronage with us, and we shall endeavor to recompense them by our paper as much as in our power, and at the same time are anxious that our

friends should do everything in their power to increase our subscription list.

To our estimable predecessor, Lieut. J. G. Given, we are much indebted for the very kind manner in which he has been pleased to notice our humble abilities, and we must in return remark, that he is a gentleman of whom we have always entertained the most exalted opinion, both in his public and private capacity, and sincerely hope he may meet with much success in his new vocation.

A. J. RHEY.

We have received the first number of the "National Argus," a new Democratic paper published in Philadelphia by Jos. Severns, Esq., and Col. Robert F. Christy, who are represented to us by a friend, as being radical and popular members of the party whose principles the paper is intended to advocate. In reading their address, we are much pleased at the bold stand they have taken for the conciliation and union of the democracy of the Keystone State, and we most cordially wish them success in their enterprise.

Congress.

So far there has been but little business of importance transacted in either department of the thirty-first Congress. It is not probable that any of the numerous bills before Congress will be touched this session. The tariff has been agitated, but from present appearances there seems to be no certainty of a modification. We may probably congratulate our readers upon the probability of the cheap postage bill passing, establishing a uniform rate of postage at three cents pre-paid, and five cents unpaid. This would no doubt be a popular movement, and is in fact, a "consolidation devoutly to be wished for." The day of adjournment is now approaching, and as there is but little time for debate, we apprehend that the appropriation bill will consume the balance of the session, and that the bill for the improvement of the western rivers will be talked about, but no action taken on it. Speculations are daily being made concerning the probable chances of distinguished democrats for the next Presidency, but as far as we are concerned, any of the popular Union democrats shall receive our cordial support.

We return our thanks to Hon. A. Felch, U. S. Senator from Michigan, for a pamphlet copy of his most excellent speech on the bill now before the Senate "ceding the public lands to the several States in which they are situated." We are also obliged to Messrs. Linton, Rhey, and Guffey, of the House for public documents.

Conemaugh County.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature, for the erection of the new county of Conemaugh, out of parts of Cambria, Indiana, Westmoreland, and Somerset, and has been referred to a select committee of five, consisting of Messrs. Linton, O'Neill, Fiffe, Ross, and Patton. We have not been able to lay our hands on the proceedings in relation to this matter, but understand the above to be the facts of the case, and it has been represented to us that the committee are favorable to the erection of said county. It is a well known fact that our Representative, Mr. Linton, was elected on the grounds that he would oppose the bill erecting said county out of part of Little Cambria, and we have confidence in his declarations, although he probably has had numerous petitions forwarded to him in favor of this bill. We sincerely hope that any effort to dismember this county will prove futile. Our county now is one of the smallest in the State, having a population of only 17,000, and to lessen its present limits would be an outrage that would be duly remembered. We protest against this bill, and are fully satisfied that nine-tenths of the inhabitants and voters of this county are firmly opposed to any reduction of our present limits. We hope the committee will report against the bill for a new county, and if such should not be the case, we look to the House for the defeat of the same. Some action should be taken here on this matter before it is too late. Remonstrances should be forwarded to our Representative.

Democratic Meeting in Bedford County.

We notice in the last number of the Bedford Gazette the proceedings of the Democratic meeting held in that place on Monday, 17th inst. Gen. Bowman, the talented editor of the Gazette, after addressing the meeting, read a letter from Judge Black withdrawing his name from the gubernatorial contest—the meeting then declared themselves unanimous in the choice of Hon. James Buchanan for Presidency, and Col. Wm. Bigler for

Governor; and in accordance with the wishes of the people thus expressed, the Gazette has raised to its mast head the names of these distinguished democrats. The meeting was also addressed by Maj. S. H. Tate, O. E. Shannon, Esq., and Col. A. H. Coffroth, of Somerset.

Samuel Carn, John Sills, and Thomas W. Horton, were appointed Representative Conferees, to meet the Conferees from Cambria and Fulton to select delegates to the Reading and Harrisburg Conventions. The Conferees of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton counties, have selected Samuel Robinson, Esq., of Fulton, as Senatorial delegate to the Reading Convention, and Hon. Job Mann, our present member of Congress, as Senatorial delegate to the Judicial Convention at Harrisburg.

In the last issue of the "Johnstown Echo," we were much surprised to find an article reflecting on the judicial character of our townsman Judge Noon, which to us appears to be an unjust and unfair attack on that gentleman, and as we claim no pretensions to legal qualifications, it is with the greatest pleasure we give place in our columns to the following communication handed us by one of the gentlemen connected with the bar in this county, and which we are assured meets with the approval of all the legal gentlemen here. For a careful perusal of the same, we ask all persons who are anxious to see the laws of our land justly and impartially executed, and especially to those who are desirous to see the habeas corpus act inviolably sustained. We have also received a communication from Michael Dan Magehan, Esq., which will be published in our next number.

For the Mountain Sentinel.

Philip Noon, Esq.

This gentleman has been made the subject of a very foolish attack, in a paper published in Johnstown, known as the "Echo." Believing that the article in question is intended not only to weaken public confidence in Judge Noon, but also to forestall public opinion, and prevent a fair trial of the parties implicated, I cannot, as one of the counsel for what the Echo calls "the worst of the desperadoes," permit it to go to the world without a word of reply.

On the oath of R. Boyle and others, in court in banc, issued what is called a bench warrant. This was done by the Court, on proof that efforts would be made to prevent prosecuting labor on the Central Rail Road, that large bodies of armed men would follow the lines, and overawe the good citizens, inciting to riot and bloodshed, &c., &c.; and that the public peace, as well as the speedy completion of the Central Rail Road, demanded this course.

A few Sundays ago, a native American visited one of the Shantees of the Irish, and, after becoming intoxicated, commenced a quarrel with one of the Irishmen, and, as might have been expected, received a flogging for his pains. On Monday morning these "desperadoes" resumed their labor, and thought no more of the matter.

Not so the Sheriff's Central Police! Assault, battery, mayhem, riot, arson and murder—everything contemplated by the Boyle information—and a great deal never contemplated by it, had been committed. Who must be suspended on the "Central"? There is no longer any security for life, or limb, or liberty!

Under these appalling circumstances, Deputy Sheriff Patterson, with characteristic promptitude and energy, brought all his police, ordinary and extraordinary, to bear upon the "desperadoes" who were busy with their "picks and shovels," not burying their dead, but constructing that unassuming improvement, known as the "Central." The "desperadoes" all fled excepting two, who thinking they had nothing to fear, surrendered to the prowess of the indomitable police. So that the Sheriff's return was killed, 0, wounded, 0, prisoners, 2, missing, a whole lot of desperadoes.

Without any delay the police aforesaid, without an examination, without a commitment, without any opportunity of exculpation,—without any of those rights that the Commonwealth vouchsafes to the humblest of her citizens, these two Irishmen, together with the native were brought to Ebensburg, and lodged in the County jail. The jailor, however, was directed to give the native the "run of the house," as he was on his parole of honor, and to put the two Irishmen into the cell.

M'Donald, one of the Irishmen, and the native were both discharged on entering bail. The other, David Patton, was brought before Judge Noon for examination on a Habeas Corpus. On this hearing there was scarcely a shadow of evidence of any kind against Patton; if there was any offence it was against the native, who stated on his oath that Patton had never touched him that he knew of, and whose testimony, delivered with the most praiseworthy candor, went to prove that Patton so far from injuring him, tried to save him from harm.

The American refused to prosecute Patton, believing him innocent, and no other was willing to be bound over to prosecute.

Under these circumstances the Court might well have discharged the prisoner, but the Judge thought it the safer way to take his recognizance in \$50, conditioned

for his appearance at Court,—to meet no prosecutor!

This is the whole case as it occurred, and every good citizen must deprecate the idea of village scribblers, trying cases in the columns of the newspapers—thus poisoning the minds of the people against the judicial authorities of the country, and biasing the minds of jurors against those whose liberty they are to pass upon hereafter. Who ever before heard of a press, so lost to a sense of its high vocation, as to publish a man, shortly to be tried before a jury of his country, as the worst of a gang of "desperadoes"? It would seem that the "Judge" who conducts the Echo has already tried this man.

The article in question can only be the emanation of a bad heart; and is calculated to do more harm to the unfortunate laborers on the road, and "law abiding" citizens generally, than anything that ever occurred in the county; and is entirely worthy of the head and heart of the wisecracker who prates about "law abiding" citizens; and at the foot of the same column, throws out a banter for a street fight,—a higher offence than any yet committed by either the FARROWNS or CORONIANs.

In conclusion it might be added that the "jail delivery" was not "general," as there are still a couple of Conemaugh county men in limbo, but whether they are Farrowns or Coronians, I cannot say.

A FRIEND OF JUSTICE.

Commonwealth vs. United States Bank.

On Wednesday last, in the District Court of Philadelphia, before Judge Sharswood, the suit of the Commonwealth against the Bank of the United States was brought to a conclusion, so far as the determination of the facts is concerned, by a verdict for the plaintiff for \$1,203,750 00. To the sagacious, energetic action of the present accounting officers, Messrs. Bickel and Purviance, the rescue of this immense sum is to be attributed. It will be recollected that by the charter wrung from the Legislature by the clamorous solicitation of the moneyed interests aided by the no less cogent arguments of the bank itself,—it was provided that in lieu of taxation, and as a price of the franchise sold by the State, the bank should pay to the State Treasurer for the use of the common schools, the sum of two millions of dollars, in the annual instalments of one hundred thousand each. These instalments were paid down to 1841, when the bank made a series of assignments for the ostensible purpose of winding up her affairs, and disbursing the property assigned among her creditors. Instead of doing this however the property so assigned, with the exception of a few light dividends, remained in the hands of the trustees down to July last, when the Commonwealth presented her claim; the trustees, who were salaried officers, paying no taxes therefor, and until required, in the last few months by the preemptory action of the accounting department, making no return to the assessor of the amount in their hands. The defence started on the trial of the suit for the arrears of the purchase money, that the bank had since '41 ceased the exercise of banking privileges, and had made the assignments in question, was ruled irrelevant by the court, and a verdict taken for the amount above rendered. This amount, independently of all other considerations, is scarcely equal to what would have been realized by the taxation of the property assigned, during the ten years it has been lying in the trustees hands; and we congratulate the department on the success with which its efforts to recover so large and just an indebtedness has so far been attended.

[Harrisburg Union.]

From the Scientific American.

The Panama Railroad.

The Panama Railroad progresses very slowly, but it is said that it will be finished in three years. There are but three stations formed at present. There will be one more, making four from Navy Bay to Oregon, as follows:—1st, Navy Bay, the commencement; 2d, Gatun, about 7 miles from Navy Bay; 3d, Bolita Soldado, (soldier's camp); 4th, Juan Grande, (Great John.) The distance from Navy Bay to Gorgona, by railroad, is 28 miles; the Chagres river will be crossed by a bridge, 14 miles this side of Gorgona. Nothing has been done or commenced on the other side of Gorgona, nor will there be until this is finished. There will be some stupendous work between Gorgona and Panama—a tunnel is to be made of about 3,000 feet. There are about 180 persons at this station, one half of whom are unable to work in consequence of sickness. In fact there are but five months' working time in the whole year, the balance of the time being constantly rainy and sickly.—The dry and healthy season has now commenced, and the weather is delightful, with fine breezes from the mountains. On this road there are no contracts given out; consequently there is no room for speculation or imposition. The wages given are good, and every man is treated with attention and good feeling—no more work imposed upon him than is considered prudent. The superintendents and engineers are perfect gentlemen of education and much travel—they are principally from New York. The laborers are mostly from the West, Buffalo, and Erie, Pa. The wages to laborers are \$40 per month, with medical attendance and board—no deduction of time for sickness. The other employees on the road have compensation varying from \$50 to \$100 per month. They talk of finishing this part of the road (to Gorgona) this season; but it seems impossible, for the surveys are not perfected and actually decided upon. The air line distance from Chagres to

Panama, is 30 1/2 miles. The highest point of land on the line of road between Gorgona and Panama, is 320 feet above the Pacific. The Pacific is 12 feet 6 1/2 inches higher than the Atlantic. The greatest rise of water known at Panama, 22 feet; least 10. There are swamps between Navy Bay and Gatun 2 1/2 feet lower than the Atlantic. The grade of the road from Navy Bay to Gorgona, 26 feet to the mile; Gorgona to Panama, by mule path, 22 miles; Cruces to Panama, by mule path, 17 miles; Isthmus of Tehuantepec, air line distance between the Atlantic and the Pacific, 132 miles; Nicaragua, air line distance between the Atlantic and Pacific, 90 miles.

Pennsylvania Agriculture.

The Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, just formed by the Convention which met at Harrisburg, is to hold its sessions annually, at that place, on the third Tuesday in January, when the officers for the ensuing year are to be elected. There is also to be an annual exhibition, during which a general meeting of the Society will be held. Among the officers of the association are a Librarian and an Agricultural chemist and Geologist; and three-fourths of the officers must be agriculturists or practical farmers. All persons may become members by application to the Executive Committee, and paying the fees. The Vice Presidents are to take charge of the affairs of the Association in their several districts; to advance all its objects; to call upon farmers to report as to the condition of agriculture in their neighborhood; to ask for information as to the modes of cultivation adopted by different farmers; and, as far as in their power, to make known the resources of their districts; the nature of its soil; its geological character, and all such matters as may interest farmers in every part of the State.

The Corresponding Secretary is to correspond with our Consuls in foreign countries, that new seeds, vegetables or live stock may be introduced, and their fitness for cultivation and propagation in our climate be tested.

From this it will be seen that the Society commences upon a plan calculated to make it eminently useful. The practical utility of the organization is worthy of all commendation. Connected with it we perceive the names of a large number of leading citizens throughout the State.

Mirabeau's Funeral Oration on the Death of Franklin.

The recent celebration of the anniversary of Franklin's birthday has brought out some interesting reminiscences. Among the rest is the funeral oration on his death pronounced by the eloquent and gifted Mirabeau, in the National Assembly of France, on the 11th of June, 1760. Mark Anthony's oration over Caesar's dead body can scarcely surpass it in simple, soul-thrilling eloquence.

"Franklin is dead.—[A profound silence reigned throughout the hall.] The genius which gave birth to America and scattered torrents of light upon Europe, is returned to the bosom of the Divinity!"

"The sage, whom two worlds claim, the man disputed by the history of the sciences and the history of empires, holds, undoubtedly, an elevated rank among the human species.

"Political cabinets have but too long commemorated the death of those who were never great but in their funeral orations; the etiquette of court has too long sanctioned hypocritical grief. Nations ought only to mourn for their benefactors; the representatives of freemen ought never to recommend any other than the heroes of humanity to their homage.

"The Congress has ordered a general mourning for one month throughout the fourteen confederate states, on account of the death of Franklin; and America has thus acquitted her tribute of admiration in behalf of one of the fathers of her constitution.

"Would it not be worthy of you, fellow-legislators, to unite yourselves in this religious act to participate in this homage rendered in the face of the universe to the rights of man, and to the philosopher who has so eminently propagated the conquest of them throughout the world?"

"Antiquity would have elevated altars to that mortal who, for the advantage of the human race, embracing both heaven and earth in his vast extensive mind, knew how to subdue thander and tyranny.

"Enlightened and free, Europe at least owes its remembrance and its regret to one of the greatest men who has served the cause of philosophy and of liberty.

"I propose, that a decree do now pass, enacting, that the National Assembly shall wear mourning during three days for Benjamin Franklin."

Jenny Lind is to give ten concerts in all at New Orleans. Then she goes to St. Louis, singing, perhaps at some of the intermediate towns on the Mississippi. From St. Louis she goes to Louisville—sings there, and then to Cincinnati, where she will give several concerts. We presume, inasmuch as there is much money, and not a little musical taste among the inhabitants of the "Queen of the West." Then Jenny goes to Pittsburg, and so on, to New York, where she is to sing again about the 10th of April, and will remain there some time.

Mr. Buchanan.—An able correspondent of the Daily Wisconsin, at Milwaukee, has written a powerful article, advocating the nomination of Mr. BUCHANAN to the Presidency. He makes an eloquent appeal to the Democracy of Wisconsin to cast their vote for "Pennsylvania's favorite son" in the National Convention.

Some of the ultras of the South are, we perceive, looking out for a candidate for the Presidency. The Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser exclaims:—"Who shall he be? The chosen standard-bearer of the Southern chivalry? What Cour de Lion is ready to champion this good cause? Whose battle axe shall ring loudest upon the pillars of that huge Federal temple upon whose idolatrous altars Southern interests and honor are being perpetually sacrificed?"

The same paper continues in this strain:—"Who shall he be? Cheves, of South Carolina; Quitman, of Mississippi; Jefferson Davis, do; Governor Collier, of Alabama; Gen. Mirabeau Lamar now a citizen of Alabama; ex-Gov. McDonald, or Judge Colquhoun, of Georgia?"

The Presidential question is at the present moment, involved in much confusion, especially among our political opponents. Gen. Cass, Mr. Buchanan, and Gen. Houston have all many and warm friends, and they are beginning to bestir themselves. If Pennsylvania could unite upon a single man, his chance for the nomination would be highly favorable.—But the party in this State is sadly divided.—Pen. Inquirer.

An Incident.—The New York Herald, alluding to the arrival of the Africa, says:—"A young woman was among the first upon the deck, who seemed more than all others, anxious for the fate of the Atlantic. She had a brother on board, who is engaged as fireman; and so great has been her anxiety, that for several days she has almost entirely abstained from food. As soon as the news was proclaimed, a shriek of joy went up from that female, who at once ran home, to convey the glad tidings of joy to her aged mother, whose anxiety had not been less than her own."

A Valuable Lump.—A friend, who received a private letter yesterday from London, is informed by his correspondent, that a few days before writing, an Irishman who had returned from California, took a lump of gold nearly pure, to the Bank of England. The rich mass weighed eight or nine pounds, and the Directors of the Bank were so pleased with it, that they paid the applicant fifty pounds more than its value, as a present or premium. It is probably the finest auriferous specimen from California, at present in Great Britain.

Great Ice Flood in the Susquehanna. The Coal Mines Flooded.—Destruction Threatened.—A dispatch from Pittstown, dated Feb. 13, says:

"The recent heavy rains have caused a great flood in the Susquehanna. The ice in the river has been moved several times and piled up to a great height along the banks in this vicinity. It is much to be feared that greater damage will be caused by the immense quantity of ice, should a final break-up ensue at this stage of the water. Mr. Pettis, a gentleman residing on the opposite side of the river from this place, was obliged to leave his dwelling yesterday, owing to the high water. We understand that several coal mines in this region have filled up with back water from the river. The water is said to be three feet higher than ever known before. I have just learned that part of one of the new piers at this place has been torn down by the moving of the ice."

Col. Bigler.—The Lancaster Intelligence states that Col. William Bigler, of Clearfield, will have at least 100 votes of 133 that is to compose the Reading Convention, and the editor says he should not be surprised if he had 125. The people, with unprecedented unanimity, have designated Col. Bigler as the gubernatorial candidate, and the State Convention will have nothing to do but to go through the mere form of placing him in nomination.

A HANDSOME COMPLIMENT.—The Washington Correspondent of the New York Tribune says: I had the pleasure, this morning, of being shown by the member of Congress from California a magnificent watch, presented by the young men of that state to Hon. Stephen A. Douglass, the author of the bill for the admission of California into the Union. No person was allowed to subscribe a sum exceeding five cents toward the object, and the subscription consisted of such contributions. Its value is about \$300. It is a hunting case, on one side of which are the arms of the state of Illinois—on the reverse those of California. It was manufactured in New York and is a very elegant affair.

SENATOR DICKINSON.—The following paragraph we find in that sturdy whig paper, the N. Y. Evening Mirror:

Among the several candidates for the Presidency, Senator Dickinson's chances are not the least. The Union Whigs at the South would give him a strong vote. A distinguished Southern Whig Member of Congress assures us that he should be glad to see Senator Dickinson in the Presidential Chair.

New Jersey Senator.—Commodore Stockton has been nominated for the U. S. Senate, by the democrats of the New Jersey legislature, but the legislature on Friday failed to elect. There were five ballots for U. S. Senator, without a choice being effected. Mr. Stockton's highest vote was 38; Mr. Dayton's 38. Necessary to a choice, 40. Ford received 3, and Wm. Right 2. In the democratic caucus the name of John R. Thompson, brother-in-law of Mr. Stockton was withdrawn on monopoly grounds.