

# Democrat and Sentinel.

THE BLESSINGS OF GOVERNMENT, LIKE THE DEWS OF HEAVEN, SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ALIKE UPON THE HIGH AND THE LOW, THE RICH AND THE POOR.

NEW SERIES.

EBENSBURG, OCTOBER 5, 1854.

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## Political.

### ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR BIGLER TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

WATERLY, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1854.

**Fellow-Citizens.**—It is now nearly three years since I entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office of Governor of this State, and to the extent of my feeble abilities, to perform the trust in such a manner as to develop the resources of the State, promote a just public policy, and advance the welfare of the people. How far I have succeeded in this work is for you to determine.

A Democratic State Convention, in March last, presented me for your suffrages for a second term. In accordance with what appeared to be a recognized custom, I left the seat of government, near the close of last month, for the purpose of meeting the people in the several counties of the State, and in person, accounting to them for my stewardship, and listening to their views and intentions on all public questions of State policy. A painful and dangerous illness has deprived me of this pleasure. For near three weeks I have been confined to the room in which I write, during all which time, as I learn the canvass has been actively pursued by my opponent. It is now impossible for me to visit more than a few of the counties prior to the election, and to do so, is made of reaching you with my views except through the medium of the press.

In my present official state of health, and in this locality without access to the books and documents which I ordinarily refer to, I shall limit what I shall herein discuss to those questions which legitimately bear upon our State policy, or which are in some degree involved in the present canvass, and in reference to which I may, in the event of my re-election, be called upon to act in my official capacity.

What I have done, and what I wish to do, I recollect, it is your right to know.

I must, in the first place, congratulate you on flourishing condition of all the great interests of the State, excepting only the agricultural, which has suffered materially by the drought of the season.

The finances of the State were never in a more wholesome condition. Our resources are equal to all ordinary demands, with an annual surplus of about three-quarters of a million of dollars, which is applicable to the payment of the public debt. For the three past years this surplus has been absorbed in the redemption of our State bonds, and the payment of our public debt, which is now reduced to one million of dollars. These undertakings will cost the State, in all, over four millions and a half of dollars. But for these, a very large reduction in the State debt would have taken place during the term of my service. No new claims of expenditure have been commenced under my administration, save only a small appropriation to enlarge the public schools, and a measure necessary to sustain an athletic school. If I should be re-elected Governor, I shall employ the power of the Executive department to arrest all new schemes of improvement at the expense of the treasury.

I have always regarded the proposition to sell the public works as a business question. The policy of the measure depends largely upon the price to be obtained for the same, and the possession of the works may be granted, if a sale be made for an aggregate sum, less than the amount or when the net profits would pay the interest, then it would not be economy to sell; such a measure would increase and not lessen the burdens of the people. Should all the policy of selling most of the public works, and the sale of the public lands, be taken to secure a large compensation, and to make the conditions such as most certainly to guard the rights and interest of the public in the use of these great highways. I am sure all will agree that no corporation should have the improvements on such terms as would enable it to impose unjust burdens on the general public, or to encroach upon the rights of the people. No such measure can ever receive my sanction.

I have spoken of this branch of public affairs with delicacy, because its management and control have been confided to agents, selected by the people themselves, and accountable only to them, the Executive having no power to direct in what manner the public works should be managed.

As indicated in my last annual message, you are aware that I regard the State's system of managing the public works, as susceptible of great improvement. I then expressed the opinion, which I still sustain, that the management should be based on plain business principles.

induce me to sanction any considerable extension of such capital in the State, I am a firm believer in the policy of dispensing with the use of paper money so far as that can be done without giving too sudden a shock to the business relations of the people. Such policy, I am confident, is best calculated to promote the success of the manufacturer, the miner, the agriculturist, and above all, to secure to the laborer a just reward for his toil.

A loose and unguarded system of granting corporate privileges obtained favor under the administration of my predecessor. Corporations were created to engage in mere ordinary business enterprises, clothed with extraordinary powers, and upon the principle of a limited liability of the corporators: thus giving the capitalist undue advantages. I deemed this system unwise and unjust. I could see no reason why those who sought to enjoy all the profits of an ordinary enterprise, clothed with the emblems of a corporate seal, in competition with individuals, should bear the entire responsibility and pay their debts to the last farthing as individuals are required to do. The use of the veto power soon succeeded in arresting this system, and the same policy of limitation in corporations of this kind is now the settled policy of the State, and shall be maintained so long as I have the power to do so.

A number of general laws have been adopted to supersede the necessity for special legislation, and which good has been accomplished, but there is still, on this point, a great work to perform.

The defective system of omnibus legislation, by which special laws were piled together under the same common title, and which has cost the Commonwealth so many millions of profligate expenditure in times past, was during the last session, for the first time, completely broken down; and the laws of 1854 have been presented to the people, each separate, resting on its own merits. If I be re-elected, the whole power of the Executive department shall be wielded to maintain this wholesome system.

The policy of municipal subscriptions to public works, sanctioned by my predecessor, never did, as you will remember, meet the entire approval of my judgment. I felt required, at an early day, to advise the people and their representatives against this invidious mode of creating debts; but the Executive department shall be wielded to maintain this wholesome system.

I believe in the wisdom and justice of the language of the Constitution of the United States, that declares: "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." and in the declaration that all the rights of our own Commonwealth, that all men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. That "no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishment or modes of worship;" and in the further declaration that, "no person who acknowledged the being of a God, and a future state of reward and punishment, shall, on account of his religious opinions, be disqualified to hold any office or place of trust or profit under the Commonwealth."

I believe these instruments of fundamental law, as they are, should be maintained and justly administered by all men in civil authority. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how any one sworn to administer these paramount laws could feel warranted in stepping over the heads of their distinct terms, and establishing rules of action in direct violation of the guarantees and immunities which they secure to every citizen. Citizens according to the terms of the Constitution, are all alike—they are entitled to equal protection—to equal rights—to equal immunities, and no man who pretends to a just administration of the laws should attempt to maintain the rights of one class of citizens to suit his own caprice, and to lay down, as a rule of action, that the accident of birth should deprive an American citizen of the enjoyment of the full immunities and privileges guaranteed him by the Constitution. A more unjustifiable idea never entered the mind of any American statesman. I would not say this because I believe any class of people, whether born, or whatever their religion, have any right, as a class, or religious denomination, to demand office, or honor, or distinction in the civil government. The Democracy of this country never have, nor ever will recognize any such demand.

But taking the Constitution as a guide and a rule of action, they will maintain the rights of all citizens, learning each to depend upon his own merits and qualifications for office and honor. This I hold to be the true doctrine on this question.

If the conditions upon which the people of other countries can become citizens of the United States, and enjoy the benefits of our free institutions, be wrong, that is our fault. It was not the German, the Welshman, the Englishman, the Irishman, or the Frenchman, who made our conditions. They are the work of American statesmen. They stand sanctioned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other illustrious fathers of our Republic. We held out the aluring invitation to the people of other countries to come here, accept our conditions, and become American citizens. Nor were we slow to impress upon the world the peculiar benefits of our institutions. Indeed, we boasted of our land of civil and religious liberty, of our asylum for the oppressed, where every man could enjoy the high dignity of self-government, and the unestimable privileges of worshipping God agreeably to the dictates of conscience. Thus invited, many came of all countries, and of all sects of professing christians. Some have been with us since the days of the revolution, some for half a century; some for half that time, and others for a shorter period. They have contributed by their industry and skill to the development of the resources of our common country, and have assisted in its defence; others have filled the most cultivated of the soil, and have added to the general prosperity of the country; others have advanced the commercial, manufacturing, mining, and mechanical interests of the nation, and others have adorned the pulpit and the bar. They have assisted to pay the taxes, and to fight our battles; and shall the sacred covenant which was thus made with those people be violated by the power of a secret and in-sidious combination that overrides the Constitution?

Shall the faith of our fathers, as pledged in this great instrument, be thus disregarded? Right-minded men of all parties must respond "No." No such immorality and political wrong should be permitted to tarnish the fame of our glorious country.

From the long past days of the revolution there is a remembrance that speaks in eloquent tones against this proposed error. From the shades of Mount Vernon—from the grave of La Fayette—from the heights where Montgomery fell—from the once bloody fields where Pulaski and De Kalb gave up their lives, there comes up a solemn remonstrance against this proposed wrong. It would not say this, nor the weakest sentiment of it, if the mere matter of office to this class of citizens. The value of office to them is of small importance, but it is the deep dishonor that such a violent measure would inflict upon our country, that demands me there to speak. It would not be the

loss of civil place that would most afflict our adopted citizens, but it would be the humiliation of being designated as a class, of whom it should be said, they are not to be trusted with civil place. This is the idea that would smother every claim of pride and excite their indignation. There are amongst them those who in the want of a full appreciation of our institutions and customs, so deprecate themselves as to give reason for complaint. But these facts afford no sufficient ground for violating the institutions of the country. It is simply contrary to acknowledge the danger from such a source, and the avowal of it a year commitment to the strength of our government.

I repeat, that I am opposed to all anti-bond societies or associations to accomplish political ends, and to all obligations which enmesh the free exercise of the elective franchise, or that may be calculated to prevent the exercise of the franchise. I deprecate as most mischievous these political tenets which, in their illiberal and intolerant spirit, would go behind the swaddling clothes of the infant, and pry into the conscience of men to fix the test for civil office.

Has it ever occurred to those who have thoughtlessly professed this now doctrine, that the practical application of it must be met at the very threshold by insurmountable difficulties? Is it attempted to excite one class of professing Christians against another, a mere expedient of wily politicians to accomplish their own selfish ends, or is it intended as a great radical change in the institutions of our country? In the latter, be the name of the Church and State. How can we can these now dogmas be reduced to practice? Their advocates must get possession of the civil government—must change the fundamental laws of the land, and then bring the power of the government to bear on matters of religious belief and church organization, and when all demands have been made, and all demands have been pushed into purity, according to the terms of this new power, then another, the most needed correction, would be taken up, and so on until all religious denominations would be made to accord to a fixed standard by the force of law. In my opinion by the time this "Sabbatarian" would have been enacted, the spirit of the nation would be prostrated and the infidel spirit be pre-eminant.

Who will have the boldness to undertake a work of this magnitude? No one, I venture to say, of all the men, who, in an evil hour, have embraced this theory, can be found who will assume so great responsibility. Such an attempt, could it be made, would be well calculated to awaken abroad the scenes of the seventeenth century, as unnumbered emigrants would be led to the voice of history upon this subject, nor should we forget that our ancestors, from whatever country they may have come, and wherever landing on this continent, whether at Plymouth Rock of Jamestown, were refugees from religious persecution, escaping from the bloody scenes which mark the darkest pages in modern history. Nor should we forget, when Wm. Penn, Roger Williams and the Baltimore, a Quaker, a Baptist and a Catholic—a real union of perfect religious tolerance, that it was a second era of "good will to man on earth."

But to suppose, that is simply an absurd ideal, that there be reason to apprehend an encroachment upon our civil liberties, by any class or party of citizens, who would all professing citizens rally for protection against such an evil? They would be found to cluster around the constitution; they would gather about it like the faithful at Meera, and hold it up as an impassable barrier to such encroachment. There I should be, in such an event, to maintain this instrument for the benefit of an army, who are far from being the disciples of the infidel. But enough of this and trust that I have succeeded in making my views known to you on this grave subject.

I have said none of those things which prejudice, for I am myself a Pennsylvanian by birth, and a Protestant by religious belief, as were my parents before me, but I have simply declared the principles which I believe are consistent with the best interests, the dearest rights, and highest hopes of the people of my native State. Nor do I intend to speak unkindly of any individual citizen, who for my reason may have connected themselves with the associations to which I have been referring. I can readily perceive how, clothed with a novelty and secrecy, the approaches of such an institution would be insidious and seductive; and how a citizen of the best intentions might be drawn within its meshes. But all such have a plain duty to perform, and that is, to withdraw from the order—to renew their allegiance to the Constitution, and to assert the dignity of free and independent voters, and vote for whomsoever they please for political office.

I have now, fellow citizens, said all that the limits of a communication of this kind will permit, and trust I have made myself understood on all subjects relating to my official duties. The issue must be with you. I am confident that, in passing upon my acts, you will not test them by a standard of perfection, for that is what humanity cannot attain. In conclusion, let me assure you, that whatever your decision may be, it shall not weaken my attachment to the principles I have declared, nor lessen my zeal for the welfare of my native State, nor my admiration for you as a people.

Very respectfully, your fellow-citizen,  
WM. BIGLER.

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Very respectfully, your fellow-citizen,  
WM. BIGLER.

## PROHIBITION!!!

### To the Voters of Blair County.

**Fellow-Citizens.**—The undersigned have been appointed by a meeting of citizens of Blair county, friendly to the passage of a law prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating drinks, as a committee to address you upon this important subject. The meeting by which we were appointed, was held in pursuance of previous notice, in Hollidaysburg, on Saturday, September 23d, and as the time is short, we can only ask you intelligent and candid attention to a brief summary of the reasons that we think ought to induce every good citizen to go to the polls and vote for prohibition. We wish this question to be decided upon its own merits. It is not a party question. Of the undersigned some are of one party, some of another, and some are not partisans at all; and we appeal to you, not as partisans, but as citizens, as *Philadelphians, Pennsylvanians, and Americans.* We respectfully ask you to vote, and to vote in the "four of God and the love of man, according to your convictions of duty. We pretend not to legislate to our fellow-citizens, but to reason with them in the spirit of kindness and of justice. In this spirit we submit to you our candid judgment the following considerations:

1st. No citizen can avoid responsibility in this matter. Those who do not vote, are accounted with the majority, for they silently acquiesce. If you do not protest against liquor traffic, by depositing your vote, you will be reckoned its friends, unless you are providentially hindered from coming to the polls. In a great moral question there is no neutrality. He that is not for prohibition at things stand, is against it.

2d. Government is designed for the protection of the people against wrong, and the liquor traffic is the cause of the great majority of the wrongs which it is the law to prevent. Prohibit the traffic in liquor, and you stanch the most prolific fountain of crime, and sorrow, and poverty, and death. Will you not vote to protect the poor drunkard from a full temptation that he has no power to resist: our youths from the direct danger that besets them; wives and children from the abuse, and shame, and poverty, and suffering, which this traffic brings upon them; and society from the horrible disorders and enormous burdens which this business occasions? Are you in favor of protecting the helpless tyrians? Then vote for prohibition.

3d. The liquor traffic does no good. It is of no advantage either to the liquor dealer or to society. He could do better at another business if he would try, and society would be more prosperous if there was no such traffic. If the capital, time, talent and labor, that is wasted in this business, were turned into various channels of trade, the State would be immensely more prosperous.

4th. This traffic does immense harm. We cannot, in this short address, name the heart-rending details of drunkenness, profligacy, Sabbath-breaking, idleness, idleness, profligacy, rapine, robberies, murders, burglaries, burnings, thefts, robberies, riots, hangings, loss of health, railroad and steamboat disasters, wife-beating, child-abusing, poverty, pauperism, and other nameless evils, that spring directly from the liquor traffic. Within three years seven persons have been tried for murder in our County Court, and in every case the liquor traffic was to blame, as was proven in open court. Of 146 criminal trials that have occurred in our court in the same period, three-fourths were traceable to the same origin, and in most of the other cases there was a presumption of the same state of facts. And five-sevenths of the inmates of our Poor House, are there from causes connected with this traffic. This proves

5th. The liquor traffic enormously increases our Taxes. Crime and pauperism are a great expense to our county and our State. An examination of the accounts of Lancaster county, proves that more than half of the county tax paid by the people of that county, goes to support the paupers and criminal made by the liquor traffic; and we are of opinion that it is so in our own county. Now is it fair and equitable, that all other trades and occupations should be taxed to pay for the mischief occasioned by this dreadful traffic? Will you, fellow-citizens, vote to increase our taxes by voting against prohibition? Will you, for the sake of liquor dealers, vote money out of your own and your honest neighbor's pockets?

6th. Had we time to spread the figures before you, we can show by figures that cannot lie, that this traffic costs this Commonwealth, by direct waste, and other losses, forty-three million six hundred thousand dollars annually; more than enough to cancel our State debt.

7th. But our plainest argument for the prohibition law is, it has been tried, and with the most triumphant success. In Maine, where it was first tried, the people would not give it up. Even those who opposed it once, now plead for its continuance. They find so much less crime, and suffering, and pauperism, and so much more peace, good order and business prosperity, that they will not part with it. Let us try it too?

Such are some of our reasons for asking our fellow-citizens to help us and themselves in this good cause. And after answering two or three objections, we will have the subject with God and the people.

Objection 1st. A prohibitory law is unconstitutional. Let Chief Justice Taney of the United States Court, answer. "If any State deems the retail and internal traffic in ardent spirits injurious to its citizens, and calculated to produce idleness, crime, or debauchery, I see nothing in the Constitution of the United States, to prevent it from regulating or restraining the traffic, or from prohibiting it altogether, if it think proper." And so say the other Judges.

Objection 2d. "The proposals to search for liquor, is an infringement of private rights. Answer: not at all. The law now authorizes a search for stolen or contraband goods, and this law does not extend the right of search a whit further. Under it a man may have his private liquor if he does not keep it for sale. The traffic is all it forbids. Objection 3d. "Stop the traffic and you cut off part of the market for grain and diminish the price." Answer: 1st. The law does not stop the manufacturer nor forbid the sale for actual uses, and on half of all the liquor made is thus used. 2d. Even now only one bushel out of every fifty-four is distilled; and if the whole manufacture were stopped it could only make a difference at most of 1/150ths per bushel. Stop half of the trade and three-fourths of a cent is the utmost that it could affect the price. 3d. Let the thirty thousand families in our State, that by reason of this traffic, are stinted for bread, lessons, tidings, and more bread and less rum, and a market will be created by the process far beyond that made by the distillers.

Objection 4th. "The liquor-makers and vendors must have a living." Answer: let them have a good living, but not at the expense of the tears, and groans, and poverty of other families. Will you vote that twenty families shall be starved or starved, in order that one family may live in ease and wealth? Has not the poor tempted drunkard's family as good a right to have a living as the liquor-makers?

Fellow citizens.—Ponder this subject, and then act. Beware of the parties, like Christians. Think of the wretched wretches afflicted by the liquor traffic of the 30,000 families that in our State annually die. Think of the widows, and orphans, and beggars, and suicides, and non-providers, and woe, temporal and eternal, that it has made, and then go to the polls in the majesty of freedom, and vote "FOR A PROHIBITORY LAW."

To the Women of Blair County.

We would respectfully say: Ladies, you and your sex have a deep interest in this question; and while we could never ask you to interfere in ordinary questions to be decided at the polls, we solemnly believe that every woman ought to exert all her influence with her voting friends to induce them to vote right upon this issue. Our fair country women, we will appeal to you to be active and exert all your good sense and talents, to get them right and keep them right, until this paramount question is voted out of our Commonwealth.

Your Fellow-citizens,  
D. N. Junken, Alex. M. Lloyd,  
D. J. Yarkos, Lloyd Knight,  
J. L. Hoopbill, J. H. March,  
Thomas McArthur, Wm. Reed,  
James D. Roe, Saml. S. Blair.

## Questions to Emory-Whittings.

First. Have not Whigs the control of every judge of the seat of justice?  
Second. Do they not require every member of the order to vote for the Whig candidate for Governor?  
Third. Do they not require every one of you to vote against George J. Davis because he is a native of Scotland?  
Fourth. Do they not require you to prescribe every citizen who is of foreign birth?  
Fifth. Is not every Democratic Know Nothing obeying Whig orders?  
Sixth. Do not the Whig Know Nothings desire the defeat of Chief Justice Black?  
Seventh. Have they not given it up that they cannot do it?  
Eighth. Does not every Know Nothing know that the oath he may have taken is not in any sense binding?  
Ninth. What will any Democrat gain by giving the State administration to the Whigs for the next three years?  
Tenth. Is not that the main design of Whig Know Nothings at the present time?  
Eleventh. Will any Democrat help them?

## Extensive Conflagration—Accident.

PHILADELPHIA, October 2.—The large four story and extensive Mill belonging to Messrs. C. French & Co., on the Ridge Road, below Callowhill street, was completely destroyed by fire, between 1 and 3 o'clock yesterday morning. About 1 o'clock smoke was observed issuing from the second story, and in a short time the entire building was in flames. The firemen and policemen were on the ground in large numbers at an early hour, and laboring hard to save it, but their efforts were unsuccessful, and at 3 o'clock the entire place was a mass of smoking ruins. A dwelling house adjoining the mill, on Crown street, and two frame buildings on Callowhill street were slightly damaged. The latter were used as store rooms for ground plaster, gesso, &c., and the contents were saved, but everything in the mill was totally destroyed. The total loss is about \$45,000.

About 2 o'clock the north-gable end of the building fell over upon the frame building on Callowhill street, crushing in the roof. Several persons were in the second story room at the time, who made a narrow escape from injury. One young man named George Shap, a fireman of the Friendship Engine Company, was partially buried in the ruins. Lieutenant McKee and officer Wolfe immediately set to work and rescued the unfortunate man from his position, and conveyed him to his residence. His injuries are rather serious.—*Inquirer.*

New York, September 30.—A police officer named James Cathlin, was shot dead at three o'clock this morning, while attempting to arrest some burglars. Three men were arrested on suspicion.

A private despatch from Hong Kong, dated July 22d, says that Commodore Perry had arrived there. Canton was quiet. Chinese families were leaving.

Boston, September 30.—Thomas Casey was executed in the jail yard at East Cambridge, this morning, for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, at Natick, eighteen months ago. He made no speech, and died hard, showing signs of life forty minutes after the drop fell.