

Democratic County Convention.

The Democratic voters of the County of Erie were requested to meet at the usual place of holding elections in their several townships, boroughs and wards on Saturday, February 4, 1854, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of choosing delegates to attend a County Convention, to be held in the City of Erie, on Monday, Feb. 6th, 1854, to choose Senators and Representative delegates to represent the County in the Democratic State Convention.

MURRAY WHALLON, ARTHUR GREENWOOD, I. R. TAYLOR, ALDEN POMEROY, W. H. A. GALBRAITH, SHERBURN SMITH, J. B. SMITH, B. W. VANCISE, Erie, Jan. 14th, 1854.

The Governor has been so immersed in business since his arrival among us, that he has not been able to see all who have called upon him. This has been more particularly so in regard to the Ladies; in consequence of which, at the request of a number of friends, he will give a public levee at his rooms at Brown's Hotel this evening.

We are requested by some of the Ladies who have been interesting themselves for a little while for the benefit of the Railroad bridge, a week or so ago, to acknowledge the receipt of about \$10, collected by the "Erie Backet Committee," on Wednesday last. The money is being duly appropriated for the object contemplated.

Mass Meetings.

Mass meetings have been held in Fairview, Wellbore, and Springfield, since our last, in favor of sustaining Erie and the subscription by the county to the Sunbury road. The proceedings of these meetings have been sent us, and we would most cheerfully insert them at length, but from this week, in consequence of a press of other matter, precludes it. The fact, however, that they have had a very extensive circulation through the columns of other papers somewhat inspires the necessity of our giving them in full—especially when we announce emphatically that these meetings have been the spontaneous expression of the popular sentiment in those neighborhoods, unaided, as in the case of those held in opposition, by secret management and the like. By the way, we are assured by a correspondent at Allion, that the meeting which purports to have been a mass meeting of the citizens of Conestoga and Elk Creek, held in that neighborhood a few days since, consisted of the unparalleled number of twenty-three all told. Fourteen of these voted for the resolutions, and nine against them. Such demonstrations as this will never prevent Erie county from doing her duty to the Sunbury road; more especially as we understand the Commissioners have determined to perfect the subscription of \$200,000 at the earliest possible moment.

Sunbury and Erie Road.

We have truly flattering news in regard to the Erie and Sunbury road. When Mr. Cooper accepted the Presidency of the road, he did so with the pledge to raise a million of dollars additional subscription before the annual meeting of the stockholders on the 13th; and our information is that he has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations—in fact that the million is already pledged, and his promise redeemed.—John Tucker, Esq., President of the Reading Road, had who is probably the best railroad man in the State, also says, we understand, that the road must and shall be built, and as an evidence that he means what he says his own town, Richmond, one of the suburbs of Philadelphia, has just made a subscription of \$250,000 to the work. Spring Garden, it is understood, will follow suit; while from the merchant and business men of Philadelphia a very large subscription will be obtained. Now, with a proper disposition on the part of the Legislature of the road recently owned by the Franklin Canal Company, but now in the hands of the State, and such action as may be necessary to compel the road East of here to conform to the gauges East of this, we have no doubt that the Sunbury road will be in a few months under contract, and the great work commenced.

The Franklin Canal Company.

In obedience to the requirements of the act of the Legislature, repealing the charter of the Franklin Canal Company, the Governor took possession of the road built under it between Erie and the Ohio Line, on Thursday. It is now, therefore, running under the authority of the State, and is superintended by an agent of the State. We have not yet learned what arrangements, if any, have been made between the State and the Painesville and Ashtabula road; but presume, as all the railroad men on the Lake Shore are now here conferring with the Governor, that a satisfactory adjustment will be entered into in a few days.

The Compout Reporter man devotes considerable space this week to Erie in general, and our own humble self in particular. Of course he calls us a "blackguard," for when did a second get exposed that he did not turn round and abuse some one. In this case we do not know but we can bear the vials of his wrath and fling as well as any one; nay, better, for while others might suppose that his ravings might find readers who would put credence in them, we know that his paper, like his christianity, does not reach a great way. But not to waste words on so small an affair, for which we have neither time nor room; we will just whisper in his ear that news should have good memories, and his last distribute is an exemplification of the truth of the remark. For instance, in his first paragraph, in speaking of the Springfield meeting, he says:—"Learning a few days ago that the citizens of Springfield were going to hold a Railroad meeting," &c. &c. Here the fellow confesses that he knew what was going on at Springfield before he went; but in his fifth paragraph he turns round and remarks that "But there (in the meeting) a silent spectator of the proceedings, and moreover knew not the object of the assembly until after the meeting was organized."—Now a man who is such a notorious liar that he can't recollect from one paragraph to another the lie he's committed to paper, can call us a "blackguard," or say anything else vile that suits his fancy, and we will not complain.

GOV. BIDDLE'S VISIT.

Democratic Reception by the People.

We have seen a good many public receptions of public men, but never, taking all the circumstances into account, one that equalled that extended to Gov. BIDDLE by the citizens of Erie county on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. It was only known on Tuesday that he would certainly reach this city in the evening of that evening, yet when the train reached the Depot there were no less than four thousand people to greet him, and right heartily did they do it. The Pressmen were there with torches to light him to his hotel—the Military were there with cannon to proclaim aloud their devotion to the Commonwealth over which he presided, and the people were there with open hands and warm hearts to welcome him as a friend who had been tried and not found wanting. The procession was formed at the Depot, the Military under the command of Gen. Kilpatrick and his aid, Col. McLane; and the civic under Col. Clark and his aid; the procession then moved down Peach to Tenth street, down Tenth to State, down State to Brown's Hotel. All along the route handkerchiefs were waving from windows, and bright eyes sparkling a welcome, while cheer after cheer went up from the multitude assembled on the wide walks to catch a glimpse of his Excellency. Altogether it was a scene not often witnessed; and what was better, it was a spontaneous outpouring of the people—the masses—welcome one who has proved worthy of the trust reposed in him. Arrived at Brown's Hotel, Gen. Whallon, on the part of the city, welcomed the Governor in a neat and ardent speech, to which his Excellency responded substantially as follows:

He said he was deeply sensible of the honor conferred by the welcome which it had pleased the people to extend to him; and he thanked their representative for the kind terms which he had employed in expressing their wishes. He said that he had come here to perform a difficult duty imposed upon the Legislature—his duty he had desired to discharge quietly, and if possible usefully. He had not supposed that he would be required to address an assemblage such as he now saw before him; but such a demonstration was, perhaps, the natural consequence of the relation which he bore to the important difficulties which have arisen between the Railroad Companies and the people of this city. He said that the scenes of the last two months had made this city the subject of attraction to the whole country, and the probable consequences a matter of solicitude on the part of the State and National authorities. For his own part he must be permitted to say, that he had watched with deep solicitude every stage of the mighty sentiment which seemed to pervade this community—solidate alike for your rights and welfare, and for your honor and dignity as a portion of the people of Pennsylvania. He felt anxious that these rights should be maintained and those interests promoted so far as involved in this controversy, and if possible, still more anxious that no act of violence against law should tarnish the fair fame of your city. But certainly an address in reference to the details of this controversy, said the Governor, will not be expected, nor would it be proper for him to review them. What he desired most to impress upon the people, was that their cause was now fairly in the hands of the authorities of the State, and he believed that it would be wisely dispensed of. The Legislature and the Courts have control of every feature of this unpleasant affair, and it is his duty to permit them to rest for the present. He felt warranted in assuring the people that their interests were now properly understood and duly appreciated by the Legislature, and that every proper measure would be adopted to promote their welfare.

He said he believed that it was quite unnecessary to say to the people of Erie that obedience to the law is the duty of every good citizen, and that violence to persons and property cannot be countenanced in the slightest degree. He said it was unnecessary for him to express his views on the main features of the controversy, as he had given them to the Legislature in his annual message, and they are now familiar to all. He said he could not separate from the people without expressing his regret that any circumstances should have occurred to interrupt the amicable relations which should ever exist between the citizens of neighboring states. The lines which divide us, said the Governor, do not in fact make us strangers. We are all the offspring of the same common parentage, situated mainly by the same motives in life, and led on by the same objects, and why should we have a controversy. True, collisions like that which had for some time disturbed the quiet of the community may occur; indeed, in this our age, and in this progressive country of ours, it was scarcely strange that they did not occur more frequently, and that enterprises of adjacent states did not more frequently run counter to each other. While deeply sensible that the action of the state of Pennsylvania, of the people of Erie, and of the State authority, had been extensively misunderstood and greatly misrepresented, he could not minister to the diffusion of prejudice against neighboring states, which, if too long cherished, could not fail to alienate them from each other, and lead to the worst consequences. The effort on all hands should be to conciliation, and to promote the ends of justice and the general welfare of the country. He also felt that the rights of the state had been infringed and he was determined that her dignity and her rights of sovereignty should be unfalteringly maintained.

Fellow citizens, said the Governor, I must now beg you to rest satisfied—to trust your interests and rights with the constituted authorities of the state; let there be no further excitement, for he felt assured that their welfare would be properly cared for by the legislature. The above is but an imperfect abstract of the Governor's remarks, but sufficient perhaps to give the reader an idea of their bearings. He was most vociferously cheered throughout. After he had retired Messrs. KING, THOMPSON and LOWRY were loudly called for, and each responded in his usually happy and telling style. About ten o'clock the Governor and suit, the City Councils, a number of invited guests, and a large number of citizens, sat down to supper prepared for the occasion. After the cloth was removed the Mayor was called to the Chair, and Judge THOMPSON called upon for a sentiment. The Judge responded in a strain of playful humor which well suited the occasion, and then gave "Our distinguished guest, the Governor of Pennsylvania." His Excellency responded "socially," he said "officially," and a right social response it was too. Before he got through his address, we have no doubt, concluded that he was as good as erasing jokes as at divorcing railroads. It was a very happy effort, and had a most excellent effect.

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LETTER FROM MEADVILLE.

Correspondence of the Erie Observer.

MEADVILLE, Jan. 30, 1854. DEAR SIR:—I suppose you have seen the proceedings of the Railroad meeting held here last Saturday, as published in the papers; but as those proceedings are not calculated to give you a correct idea of the affair, I propose to "paint the picture true to nature," in order that those who sympathize with Erie and are true to the State, may not be misrepresented. In the first place the meeting was conceived in fraud, for its gettars up pretended that their object was to consult upon the best course to be pursued by the people of Crawford county in order to secure the building of their road, when in reality the object was to denounce Erie, and abuse the Governor. It was very appropriately organized by calling Mr. KENNEDY DAVIS, to the Chair; and it is perhaps well that he did, for it is very doubtful whether he could have stood up. After the organization was completed, your Vermont friend, D. A. FRY, Esq., was called upon to state the object of the meeting, which he did in his usual style, indulging in a strain of invective against Erie that will entitle him to be a companion of the notorious correspondent of the New York Times. While Mr. F. was speaking a committee, previously appointed to draft resolutions, or rather to report those already drafted by the managers, came in and laid before the meeting the series published in the Democrat. Before their adoption, Mr. Derickson called for a division on the preamble, but this motion was declared by the "men who contend that a motion to adjourn is not in order when the President's private opinion is against it," to be out of order, consequently it was not put, and the resolutions preamble and all forced down the throats of the people by the chicanery of an unparliamentary presiding officer. I have no doubt, with fair play, the objectionable preamble could have been stricken out. By the way, I must not forget to tell you that during the meeting Judge CHASE made some remarks about Erie in general, and your own humble self in particular, in which that eminent jurist solemnly declared that he "would not trust you with his shirt." Now, I don't want you to feel hurt at this want of confidence on the part of the honorable Judge, for really we of Crawford county, who know him a good deal better than he does you, would be far from trusting him with half a shirt. And this, let me add, is why all our railroad projects have languished. He has had his hand in every one of them, and they are where they are! More than this, you are not the only person the Judge expressed his want of confidence in, for when the news was brought in that the bill repealing the Franklin Canal Charter had passed, and had been signed by the Governor, he called forth for three groans for the Governor! After this I do not think you need make yourself unhappy on account of the Judge's opinion in regard to your moral honesty. Truly Yours, SIX FEET.

On the 28th, Mr. Bell, of Erie, presented to the Legislature the bill of over 1700 Ladies of Erie county, praying for relief for their husbands, fathers and brothers, against the encroachment of the Railroad monopolies of New York. Mr. B. in presenting these petitions, remarked:—"That it was a rare occurrence for the grater sex to mingle in such exciting scenes as these taking place at Erie. The fact that they have addressed themselves to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania is the best evidence I can give the House of Representatives of the deep earnest, and determined feeling which prevails that community. They express themselves strongly on this exciting subject because they feel strongly. Their doing so is evidence of their patriotism. Women are ever patriotic, ever true and devoted. They raise their voices only in the cause of justice. Husbands, fathers, sons and brothers, are, one and all, engaged in the earnest endeavor to uphold the laws of Pennsylvania, and the rights and sovereignty of the State, and should any one of them falter, or hesitate to go on with the good work, the women would cry shame! and point onward to the post of duty. Allow me to say, in this connection, that all the proceedings at Erie have been placed in the worst possible light by the parties interested in misrepresenting the action of the citizens of this city and county, and the false statements and increase in malignity as they are copied and re-copied for publication. The resources of wickedly fruitful imaginations seem to have been drawn upon to supply up supposed defect in information, and especially is this the case whenever it is likely to appear that the citizens of Erie have been actually abused from the commission of those acts of outrage which it has been the aim of railroad men, by a systematic course of exasperating conduct, to goad them to commit. So great an amount of lies, and without number, has never before been published in so short a period of time. Malignity must have nearly exhausted its store of spite and venom. So heartily, so steadily, so pertinaciously, and with such continued zeal have these lies been told, and adhered to, that the public mind has been started, its judgment misled and persuaded to condemn. Truth, with all its cheering progress, is endeavoring to correct public sentiment, to vindicate and uplift our cause, and the hour is at hand when the State and the citizens of Erie will rise above the calumnies which have been so studiously and with so much obloquy heaped upon them.

In aid of truth, I ask that due weight may be given to these petitions, I ask that their voice may be heard,—I ask that their advice may be listened to and heeded. I pray you to heed their appeal, grant their prayer, and you will prevent bloodshed, the danger of which is great and imminent. The wise man of the Westfield Transcript gives it as his deliberate opinion that the fact of the State taking possession of the Western Road "will all amount to nothing." What a pity our representatives at Harrisburg were not as wise, or could not see as far into a millstone, as this chap of the Transcript. It would have saved them a good deal of trouble, as well as relieved the Governor from the necessity of his present visit. However, for the information of the people we will just remark that the constituted authorities of the State are acting just as though there never was such a wise chap as our contemporary. Gen. Pecker, appointed by the Governor to take charge of the work, commenced his official duties on Thursday, and we should not wonder if he would continue to set in that capacity for some time to come, notwithstanding the Transcript's idea that it "will all amount to nothing."

Variety we know is the spice of life, but really there has been so much "noise and confusion" this week—so much excitement, and withal so much to be seen and heard out of doors—that we have been unable to give that variety to our columns we usually desire. Excuse us, then, dear reader, for Editors must sometimes see and be seen as well as "common people."

The following is a copy of the notice served by Gov. BIDDLE, to the President and Officers of the Franklin Canal Company:— To the President, Directors and other Officers of the Franklin Canal Company. OBEYANCE.—It has become my duty to call your attention to the accompanying Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to amend the Charter of the Franklin Canal Company," approved the 28th day of January, A. D. 1854. You will perceive that for reasons presented in the preamble to the said law, the Legislature have deemed it proper to exercise the power reserved to them in the Act under which the Railroad claimed by your Company was constructed, to wit:—"That the Company shall at any time abuse or misuse the privileges granted by said act of incorporation, the Legislature may revoke all and singular the rights and privileges granted to such Company." In pursuance of this right, the Legislature have "repealed, annulled and forever annulled" the charter of the Franklin Canal Company. You will also perceive that it is made the duty of the Governor, to take such measures as he may deem necessary "to carry the true intent and meaning of this act—to take charge of the property of said Company and to appoint such person or persons as he may deem proper to superintend the operations of said Railroad," and that he shall be further disposed of according to law. You will therefore, regard the Railroad and appendages, lately claimed by your Company, as in the possession of the Commonwealth, and give notice to the person or persons appointed by me, under the authority of said Act, "to superintend the operations of the road," for the time being. WILLIAM BIDDLE, Governor, Jan. 28th, A. D. 1854.

It is gratifying to see the venerable statesman of Michigan battling, as he has ever done, in behalf of the rights and honor of his country, and pressing, with all the earnestness of youthful zeal, the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine in its largest acceptation, and to its fullest extent. Wodem it peculiarly fortunate that, at this time, when momentous questions of domestic and foreign policy are to be determined—questions, the settlement of which will shape, to a great extent, future legislation, that the destiny of this great confederacy is under the guiding influence of Democratic principles, and that the administration is so thoroughly imbued with these great truths taught by the founders of the Democratic party—Jefferson, Monroe and Jackson. Those Democratic politicians and presses, who are waging war against the administration, by a system of miserable quibbling, would be more honorably as well as more usefully employed in devoting their talents and energy to the successful achievement of these important results.

Great Meeting in Philadelphia.

Resolved, That we have listened with much gratification to the statements made by Mayor King and Mr. Lowry, and that while we deprecate all measures and movements not sanctioned by law, we earnestly sympathize with the people of Erie, and attempt to resist insolent foreign aggression, and that the Legislature of the State will adopt efficient measures to protect the sovereignty of the Commonwealth and the rights of the citizens.

On motion, adjourned. From the Counts. Franklin Canal Company. We have the pleasing anticipation of announcing the passage into a law of the Bill annulling the charter of this Road, and transferring it to the State authorities until arrangement can be made for its permanent disposition. It went through the two Houses, finally last Saturday afternoon, by an almost unanimous vote, and immediately received the signature of the Governor. It will therefore be passed, and it places her on high and independent ground, enabling her, as we do, through the good offices of the State, to indicate the particular method and extent of settling the question. The Sixth Section, which prohibited any Company heretofore chartered from building a Railroad from Erie to the Ohio State Line, was voted down through a mistaken fear that it might curtail the privileges of the Pittsburg and Erie Railroad. Omitting the preamble, which merely recites in considerable length the various causes of the forfeiture of the rights and privileges claimed by the Franklin Canal charter, we give the different sections of the bill from an official copy, below.

Whereas, It is provided by the act entitled "An act regulating Railroad Companies," passed on the 19th day of February, A. D. 1849, that if any company incorporated by special act of Assembly, or under the provisions of any act of incorporation, or under the provisions of any act of incorporation, the Legislature may revoke all and singular the rights and privileges granted to such company. And, whereas, It has been judicially ascertained that the Franklin Canal Company, a body corporate, authorized by the laws of this Commonwealth for the purpose of re-constructing or repairing the Franklin Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, with the privilege of constructing a railroad, and using the graded line or top-of-the-road as a right-of-way, and of extending the same from the north and east of Erie, and from the south end thereof to Pittsburg, and made by its charter, expressly subject to all the provisions and restrictions of the said first above recited act, hath, under color of the authority and privileges then conferred, and without re-constructing or repairing the said Franklin Division, or constructing a railroad thereon, or along the same, and on the pretence of an extension of a work not heretofore completed or commenced, laid down and constructed another and independent road along and nearly parallel with the lake shore from the depot of the Erie and North East Railroad to the western boundary of the State, and the eastern terminus of a certain railroad within the territory of Ohio, and so as to form a continuous line with the said last-mentioned road, and to constitute, as declared and represented by themselves, a part or section of another and distinct road, designated by them as the Erie and Cleveland Railroad, the same being a road not known to or sanctioned by the laws of this Commonwealth, and being intended exclusively to facilitate the transit of passengers and merchandise to and from the cities of Cleveland and New York, over and through the territory of this State. And, whereas, It has been judicially ascertained that, in the pursuit of the assumption of the said illegal act and purpose, the means constituting the alleged capital stock of the said company have been almost exclusively furnished by the said Ohio Company upon a contract which limited the application thereof to the said illegal purpose, and whereby the said Franklin Canal Company hath abdicated and transferred a large part of its corporate powers and duties to the said Ohio Company, and hath moreover placed itself under a voluntary disability for an indefinite period to exercise the great ends and purposes of its creation, and to discharge its obligations to its creditors, and to its stockholders, and to the public, and to the Commonwealth, and to the State, and to the people of this Commonwealth, and to the people of the State of Ohio, and to the people of the State of Pennsylvania, and to the people of the State of New York, and to the people of the State of Maryland, and to the 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