ERIE WEEKLY OBSERVER.

DURLIN & SLOAN, PUBLISHERS. $1 50 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE. B. F. SLOAN, EDITOR.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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100 Kegs White Lead just received and for sale by
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RUSSIA SALVE for burns, cuts, chilblains, corns, sore eyes, &c. A fresh supply of this deservedly popular remedy just received by BURTON & SINCLAIR.
April 15, 1854

2 cases 3000 yards Bleached Sheeting, very low, at
June 24 BOOTH & STEWART'S

5,500 YARDS of 5-4 7-8 4-4 and 3-4 Bleached Shirtings and Sheetings, from 6c to 14c per yard
TIBBALS & HAYES.

PERSIAN CASHMERES, Mosaic Bloomer Hair, spin soft straw bonnets, parasols, at June 24. BOOTH & STEWART'S.

The Erie Observer,

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
BY DURLIN & SLOAN,
TO WHOM ALL LETTERS RELATING TO BUSINESS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

OFFICE—NO. 9, BROWN'S BLOCK, ERIE, PA.
Printing Office, corner of State and 5th Sts.

B. F. SLOAN, EDITOR.

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List of Letters

Remaining in the Post Office at Erie Pa., October 1st 1854. Persons calling for said Letters will please say "advertised"

Ames Jas S	Langley John
Atwood Hiram	Little mr
Atwell George	Lackey Amasa
An lews miss Amanda	Lindon F
Armstrong Andrew	Langdon William
Arnold Albert	Lyffer James
Allen S D	Leadworth James
Allen miss Mary	Levan Jacob
Burrough miss Fanny	Lamson mrs Harriet
Burwick Thomas	Lewis T J
Burgess mrs Mary	Lewis Chauncy
Belnap Ira	Miller Michael
Benson William	Middleton Timothy L
Beers N	Miller miss Caroline
Baker Roswell	Mooney William
Barney Sim	Miller Henry
Bartlett Dielah A	Miller miss C
Bartlett Louis P	Mitchell R W
Bran David	Monroe J D
Brown Rosana	Mapes Anna
Bromal Abijah	Meagher miss Julia
Brodrecht William	Mayer Fred
Brown Henry	Magovern James
Black John	Malick Henry
Blackwood mrs Nancy	Manes miss Rebecca
Blain mrs Harriet	Merrick & Davis
Cole Bradley	Mead Willis
Culbertson C A	McMillen G & R
Colegrove mrs Cordelia	Mckinney Hermus
Compton Joseph	McLaughlin R M
Cooper & Torrey	McCreary miss M S
Cumins mrs Marion	McAfee C J
Colegrove mrs M	McCreary John
Cogrove Orson	Nichols Rowland
Copeland M Morton	Newburg, Dart & Co
Camp miss Lucy	Newell Peter
Cain mrs Thos	Osborne Polly
Carr William	Ostrander Geo W
Clarke Elias B	Potter C M
Chamberlain mrs W M	Potter miss Nancy
Chapell F F	Putney Ainsl
Clapp E	Pomeroy Capt P
Clark Mills C	Phelps Elisha B
Chamberlain H M 2	Phelps M
Church mrs Joanna	Rugg S M
Chattland miss Susan A	Rodolph L B
Day James	Richardson & Smith
Daly Charles	Roy W
Dewey A	Robinson mrs Harriet
Dean mrs Mary	Robinson Barnabas
Devine Timothy	Richards mrs
Davison Nathaniel	Robinson S & A
Denel S L	Reiner Valentine
Doty miss Lorina	Rublin John
Dickinson Dr L	Sears S N
Denim Thomas	Sawyer M
Deepe David	Straw or Strough Peter
Dobson T W	Shooter Anton
Dumars Alexander	Stoff A Henry
Egan Thomas	Strough Saul
French mrs Lucy S	Stevens miss Martha
Fox George W	Stevens Franklin G
Fox Smith J 2	Slater Josiah
Foster Alanson	Scott J
Foster miss Eliza Ann 2	Sweeny mrs Hetty
Frones Christopher H	Smallridge Charles
Effar George	Sherman & Son
Field Noah	Spencer Geo A
Flemming John	Sneider Henry
Greenman Edward	Smith Jacob
Ghagen James	Smith P B
Garry Wm	Smith mrs Eliza
Gray miss Emily	Smith mrs Susan
Gray miss Elizabeth C	Smith Allen
Glass John	Tegrost S
Garrison J B	Taylor mrs Mary S
Giddings Harvey W	Terry mrs Lucinda
Gardner mrs Harriet	Tait William 2
Gerrish James M	Tuttle mrs M A
Gintner Samuel F	Tilson & Burgess
Gee Henry R	Thompson C S
Gardner A S	Treadwell J J
Glen Walter	Thorne Elizabeth
Hume J	Todd Thomas J
Hunes Anthony	Thompson V A
Hunt H H	Williams J E
Hubbard Daniel S 2	Wilson Joseph M
Holcomb Elish	Wilcox miss M R
Hening mrs Elmira	Wilcox James
Hurkle Jno A	Wilber Stephen M
Hemler James C	Walling & Gray
Herriman mrs	Wood N
Hall Wm	Wiley Joseph
Haldeman Henry	Wood mrs Rebecca
Hamlin Wm H	Wilson Christopher 2
Hall M W	Williams mrs T
Harper A	Willis Wm J
Hartner Joseph	Williams Harriet J
Hannah Perry	Way T
Hart Prof	Ward & Co., Messrs
Harkner James	Watkins miss Augusta
Hart Lanson	Warner A
Haverstick J C	Wornren W
Hamilton Wm	Warner Walter
Harth miss Ann	Wattles mr
Harrington James	Wall Benj
Jewett Jno	Warner A
Jordon James	Wadsworth H
Jackson William	White mrs Eliza
Johnson S	Wright Arch D M C 2
Johnson Theodore	Wright George
Jones Mary 2	Wright Henry
King Wm	Wright B F
Kendall Milo M	Whitmore J P
Keefe J C	Yrgum Don Juan N
Kellogg mrs Catharine	Young Wm
Low James	Zuck John
Luce M V B	Zuck mrs Rebecca
Logan Sary	

B F SLOAN, P M.

PAPER HANGINGS!
JUST received by Express, a part of the largest, cheapest, and best Stocks of
Wall and Window Paper,
ever brought to this market. Also Bordering to match. We do not pretend to sell at cost, but as this paper was purchased from one of the largest
Manufacturing Establishments
in the country, and at a bargain, we can and will sell as cheap as those who pretend to sell at cost, and a much better article at that. For proof, call and see.
Erie April 15, 1854—tf No 9, Brown's Block

WHO SAYS SO!
EVERY body who has regard for taste and economy, all who are wise enough to look before they buy. For cheapness, beauty, quality and quantity, we can say, and no one with truth can deny it, that we have much the best stock of Fine Gold and Silver Watches, of every description. Jewelry, Silver ware, Tea Setts, Castors and Baskets—to say nothing of Pitchers, that can be found, or remembered of, in Erie. An inspection, is requested.
Goods repaired and made to order, in the best manner, at short notice
May 6, 1854—6d. STOCKTON & FULLER, Park Row, Erie

Watchman, What'st he Clock!
STRANGER, why trouble your friends for the time, since you can go to Stockton and Fuller, and buy a good Clock, for just about nothing!
They are now receiving Thirty-five Cases, of assorted, many of them beautiful; all of them good. Park Row, Erie
May 6, 1854. 5t.

CAMPHOR OINTMENT.—Without doubt the very best external remedy ever yet discovered for inward by, Neuralgia, Piles and all kinds of inflammatory soreness on Man or Beast to be had of CARTER & BROTHER.
May 22, 1854.

3 CASES 6000 yards of Madder Prints, colors warranted fast or money refunded, at 8 cents per yard. Also 2 cases 4000 yards of prints, desirable patterns, at 6c cents per yard, at
May 20— TIBBALS & HAYES.

1000 Seamless BAGS, holding 2 and 3½ bushels, for sale by
March 18 TIBBALS & HAYES

ADDRESS OF GOV. BIGLER
To the People of Pennsylvania.

WAVERLY, N. Y. Sept. 22, 1854.

Fellow Citizens:—It is now nearly three years since you entrusted me with the discharge of the duties of the office of Governor. I have endeavored, to the extent of my feeble abilities to perform the trust in such a manner as to develope 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 of the several counties of the State, and in person accounting to them for my stewardship; and declaring to them my 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 of 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 if any of the counties prior to the election, and I can see no mode of reaching you with my views except through the medium of the press.

In my present enfeebled 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 would wish to do if re elected, it is your right to know

I must, in the first place, congratulate you on the 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 consummation of schemes of improvement commenced prior to my induction into office Those undertaken 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 schemes of expenditure have been commenced under my administration, save only a small appropriation to enclose the public grounds and a meagre sum to sustain an idiotic 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 depending largely upon the price to be obtained and the conditions on which possession of the works may be granted. If a sale be made for an aggregate sum, less than the amount on which the net profits would pay the interest, then it would not be economy to sell, as such a measure would increase and not lessen the burdens of the people Should the policy of selling meet the approbation of the representatives of the people hereafter, the utmost care should be taken to secure a full compensation and to make the conditions such as most certainly to guard the rights and interests 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 internal trade of the State, or 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 confined 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 shall be managed

As indicated in my 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

The currency of the State seems to be in a wholesome condition When I assumed the executive office, a strong sentiment in favor of what is called the free banking system, instigated mainly by the influence of the preceding administration, evidently pervaded the minds of many good citizens. I felt required to interpose the influence of my position against this scheme. Subsequent events must certainly satisfy all, that such a step would have been disastrous to the true interests of the State, and especially to our own cherished commercial metropolis I also felt required, during the session of 1852, to interpose the Executive perogative against a dangerous expansion of our present banking system.—I think there are few who will now doubt the correctness of this step Had those schemes for the expansion of paper money prevailed, the consequences would have been more disastrous than the most sagacious could have foreseen. Our commercial metropolis, instead of standing as she has stood, impregnable against the financial storm which has been felt so seciously in other cities and States, might herself have fallen a victim to the folly. Instead of boasting a proud fidelity and punctuality as she now can, she might have been humbled and dishonored. Sensible of the defects of the system we have, I still regard it as safer and better than those of most of the surrounding States. Whilst there may be localities where a growing and enlarged business would seem to demand the convenience of banking capital, no consideration can induce me to sanction any considerable extension of such capital of the State I am a 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 convenience of a corporate seal, in competition with individuals, should not bear the entire responsibilities 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 principle of individual liability 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 supercede the necessity for special legislation, and much good has been accomplished, but there is still, on this point, a great work to perform.

The offensive system of omnibus legislation, by which good and bad measures are piled together under the same common title, and which has caused the Commonwealth so many millions of prodigal expenditures in time 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 predecessors, never did, as you will remember, meet the entire approval of my judgement. I felt required at an early day, to admonish the people and their representatives against this insidious mode of creating debt; but as the measures were generally presented in the shape of a local question, affecting the interests of particular localities, I did not feel required to interpose my judgement against that of the people immediately interested, and their representatives. Time and experience have convinced me, that this was an unwise delicacy. If re-elected Governor, I shall unhesitatingly employ the veto power against all and every such schemes.

I had not supposed, prior to the commencement of this canvass, that it would be necessary for me to declare to any citizen my views in reference to our common school system. I had cherished the belief that my career as a citizen, as a Senator, and as Governor had given ample evidence of my strong attachment to this most sacred of our institutions. As in boyhood I was the recipient of the blessings of that system, so in manhood shall I maintain it to the fullest extent. I have resisted by the veto power, as the public records show, all attempts at innovation upon the system. Those engrafted on it by our political apponents, when in power—the endowment feature and the sectarian feature—have been stricken from the system. Nor could I ever sanction a division of the fund for any purpose. Whatever means be raised for educational purposes by the government, should be expended under the school organization. It would seem quite unnecessary and impolitic to collect money from the people in a public way, to be expended under private direction. There is ample room for the use of private means for the promotion of education, without interfering with the general system It shall be my pride and pleasure at all times to endeavor to perfect, extend and strengthen our common school system. Indeed, I anticipate with pleasure the day when the coffers of the State will be able to bear the expense of a far more enlarged and liberal system of education; one which shall teach the higher branches of science and literature, as well as the rudiments of a common education. No higher or noble duty could occupy the energies of a government Education in all its phases is the great helpmeet of civilization and Christianity. It is the most potent means of preventing crime; the greatest leverage in elevating society. It is the means of the largest degree of individual happiness and the highest grade of national dignity Transcendantly important in all countries and among every people; but nowhere more peculiarly so than in America Here public will directs the policy of the government; here indeed, the very foundation of the government rests on the sovereign thoughts of the masses. How important then it becomes that that will should eminate from a highly cultivated judgement. This is the very palladium of our liberties. It is the sheet-anchor of our republican institutions I believe that so long as the people are made intelligent by education and elevated in the scale of morality by its influences, so long will our civil and religious liberties be safe against internal strife or external aggression. It is the preparation for the exercise of the elective franchise, through which we are a self-governing people—by means of which the voice of the humblest citizen is equal to that of the most prominent and wealthy—through which all enjoy equal dignity and power as citizens. What statesmen can be indifferent to such a system as this? Whoever could be, deserves not the name of American. I could not greet him as a true Pennsylvanian.

On the great moral question of prohibition, the making and selling of intoxicating liquors, except for particular purposes, I have but little to say in addition to the contents of my letter to the Temperance Convention of June last. In that communication I expressed the opinion that the Legislature was possessed of constitutional power to control and regulate the subject; but at the same time remarked that in the exercise of that power, a law might be passed which in its details would be obviously unconstitutional and unjust I said then, as I repeat now, that I sincerely deprecate the vice of intemperance, and am prepared to sanction any proper measure to mitigate, and as far as possible to extirpate the vice, but I cannot be regarded as pledged to sanction a proposed law, the details of which I have not seen. The obligations of my oath under the Constitution forbids this The executive department of the government is a co-ordinate and concurrent branch of the law-making power Vested as I have been with its functions, for the time being, I should do you injustice and dishonor myself, as an officer, were I to surrender those functions to any other branch of the government, or associated power, for any reason whatever—They must be retained in the Executive where the Constitution has placed them, and freely, intelligently and independently exercised on each proposition of law or policy as they may arise.

The expediency and policy of a prohibitory law, has been by an act of the last Legislature submitted to the judgment of the whole people. Their sentiments for and against the measure are to be ascertained at the ballot box, in October next Should they demand such a measure, their will should be carried into effect in a just, efficient and constitutional form.

Complaint has been made in certain quarters that I have not sanctioned a new license law, which passed the Legislature on the night of the final adjournment. I have not sanctioned it nor do I intend to do so. It has been filed away in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to be returned to the next General Assembly with my objections.

This measure is a fair specimen of hasty and inconsiderate legislation; and is so confused and obscure in its purpose, that its administration, when taken in connection with the other license laws of the State, would baffle the most astute legal mind. After a deliberate examination of its provisions, I came to the conclusion that it might do much harm and could do no good. My reasons against it, and which are too long to be inserted here, I am confident, will prove satisfactory to you. Certain I am no real friend of temperance reform, with a full comprehension of the manifest tendencies of this measure, will be willing to make himself the advocate of such a license system.

Certain strange political dogmas have recently been presented for public consideration, and which would seem to demand more than a passing notice. I mean the doctrine of the recently elected Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, that a citizen born out of the country should not be trusted with civic office; and the still more extraordinary tenets of political faith held by a certain secret organization, which, it is said, materially aided in elevating this functionary to power.

I am opposed to all secret societies to accomplish political ends. I believe, in the language of George Washington, that all such associations "*are likely in the course of time and things to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which lifted them to unjust dominion.*"

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 of the bill of rights of our own Commonwealth, that "*all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience.*" 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 mode of worship;*" and in the further declaration that, "*no person who acknowledges the being of a God, and a future state of reward and punishment, shall on account of his religious sentiments, be disqualified to hold any office or place of trust or profit under this 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 bounds of their distinct terms, and establishing rules of action in direct violation to 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 the high handed usurpation of constituting 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, wherever born, or whatever their religious denomination, have a right to demand office or honor, or distinction in the civil government. The Democracy of this country never have, nor never will recognize any such demand. But taking the Constitution as a guide and a rule of action, they will maintain the just rights of all citizens, leaving each to depend upon his own merits and qualifications for office, emoluments 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 own fault. It was not the German, the Welchman, the Englishman, the Irishman or the Polander, who made these conditions They stand sanctioned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and illustrious fathers of our Republic. We held out the alluring 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 inestimable privilege of worshiping 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 felled the forest and cultivated 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 secred covenant which was thus made with these people be violated by the power of a secret and insidious combination that override the Constitution?—Shall the faith of our fathers, as plighted 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 America. From the long past days of the Revolution there is a reminiscence 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 remonstance against this proposed wrong. The value of office to them is of small importance; but it is the deep dishonor that such a violent measure would inflict on our country, that induces me thus 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 most wound their pride and excite their indignation. There are amongst them those who in the want of a full appreciation of our institutions and customs, so deport themselves as to give reason for complaint. But these facts afford no sufficient ground for violating the institutions of the country. It is simply cowardly to acknowledge the danger from such a source, and the avowal of it is a poor compliment to the strength of our government.

I repeat, that I am opposed to all oath-bound societies or associations to accomplish political ends, and to all obligations which embarrass the free exercise of the elective franchise; or that may be calculated to prejudice the sanctity of the jury box. I deprecate as most mischieveous those political tenets which, in their illiberal and intolerant spirit, would go behind the swaddling clothes of the infant, and pry into the consciences of men to fix the test for civil office.

Has it ever occurred to those who have thoughtlessly expounded this new doctrine, that the practical application of it must be met at the very threshhold by insurmountable difficulties. Is this attempt to excite one class of professing Christians against another a mere expedient of wiley politicians to accomplish their own selfish ends, or is it intended as a great radical change in the institutions of our country? If the latter be the real idea, it will be perceived that the first step must be a unity of Church and State. How else can these new 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 organisation; and when one denomination of professing Christians shall have been punished into purity, according to the notions of this new power, then another, the most needing 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 *Sanhedrim* should have passed all denominations in review, the Christian spirit of the nation would be prostrated and the infidel spirit be predominating.

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 heresy, can be found who will assume so great a responsibility. Such an attempt, could it be made, would be well calculated to awaken a dread of the scenes of the seventeenth century, as enacted in Europe. We should not be deaf to the voice of history upon this subject; nor should we forget, that our ancestors, from whatever country they have come, and wherever landed on this continent, whether at Plymouth Rock or Jamestown, were refugees from religious persecution escaping from the bloody scenes which mark the darkest pages in modern history. Nor should we forget that when Wm. Penn, Roger Williams and Lord Baltimore, a Quaker, a Baptist, and a Catholic, agreed upon terms of perfect religious tolerance, that it was a second era of "good will to men on earth." It was the greatest triumph of Christianity since the days of Constantine. It has been the source of the greatest good to mankind. Its benign influences have been world wide, and it has strengthened the cause of civil liberty and christianity in all countries. Has it occurred to those who would eclipse this great characteristic of American institutions, that the direful influence of a retrograde action on this subject could not be confined to the limits of our country? That as its advocates they could not be justified for a temporary inconvenience or selfish end, in entailing so great an evil on the cause of christianity and civil liberty in other countries. The principle of christianity, benevolence and love for the rights of man, knows no geographical limits. It is as wide-spread as the human race.—The christians in heathen lands point to American institutions as an argument in favor of liberal views. The advocate of the civil rights of man under tyrannical and oppressive forms of government, also draws his arguments from our example.—The American example has been the beacon-light which has guided the political warrior wherever struggling against the waves of oppression. To the children in heathen lands, and the Prottesants in Catholic countries, it has furnished the largest share of their arguments and their hopes.

But to suppose—which is simply an absurd idea—that there be reason to apprehend encroachments upon our civil institutions by any class or sect of citizens, where would all good 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 Mecca, and hold it up as an impassable barrier to such encroachment. There I should be, in such event, to maintain this instrument for the benefit of all classes and all denominations of christians. But how idle it is in those who pretend that there may be danger to the civil institutions of the country, to announce, as a remedy, the destruction of the greatest safeguard which our institutions afford. So long as the people have confidence in the paramount law of the land and reverence its principles, so long will it afford ample protection to all; but if that instrument be overridden by the power of combination—if it be thus demoralized and weakened, and the confidence of the people alienated from it, and encroachments should then be attempted, there might be cause for alarm, for those resisting such invasions would be in the attitude of an army with the fortress torn down and the ordnance dismantled. But enough of this. I trust that I have succeeded in making my views known to you upon this grave subject.

I have said none of these things from 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 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 individual citizens, who for any reason may have connected themselves with the associations to which I have been referring I can readily perceive how, clothed with 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 conf