

strongest efforts to the restoration of that state of tranquility and confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the people, that distinguished the administrations of our early republican predecessors. Let this be done, and repose, prosperity, and patriotic concord will again and forever abide in our beloved Commonwealth.

In connection with the statement I have felt it my duty to give of the financial condition of the State, I have thought these considerations respecting her credit and resources necessary and proper to prevent misapprehension, and to show that, though monetary embarrassments do exist, yet the foundations of her prosperity and glory are neither shaken nor impaired.

DAVID R. PORTER.

26th January, 1839.

From the Gettysburg Star. To my Constituents.

Fellow Citizens:—I must trouble you to read one more number upon the same melancholy subject, with my two last. I am driven to this lengthened exposition because my political enemies, have given me much more importance in the late transactions than my own merit entitles me to. And because those political friends, whose tender hearts or tender nerves induced them to make a magnanimous peace with a rebellious banditti by surrendering to them the citadel of the Constitution, in their public apologies for deserting their associates and submitting to the enemy, intimate that they were hastily and without due reflection led into the position, which they deserted in the hour of need. I desire to shrink from none of the responsibility of the course pursued by the party with which I acted; Nay I am not willing to part with any of the glory of being among the foremost and most unyielding of those, who determined never to grant any thing to the demands of the rebellious horde. But it is due to truth that the public should know, that none of those gentlemen took the first steps hastily or thoughtlessly; or turned back through honest conviction of their error.

As I before stated, on Saturday the 1st day of December nearly all the members of the Legislature were in Harrisburg, and as is usual on such occasions, each party held informal meetings. The anti-Van Buren members assembled at the house of Mr. Gleim, and organized by appointing John Strohm, of Lancaster, chairman, and John K. Zeilin, of Delaware, Secretary. The following resolutions introduced by a Senator, and after having been examined and explained at great length, together with all the law bearing upon them, were unanimously adopted, a quorum of each House being present.

Resolved, That the evidence upon which the members elect of either branch of the Legislature are admissible to seats in such branch is the returns of the election of such member when he is elected in a district composed of one county only, enclosed, sealed, and directed to the Senate or House, as the case may be, delivered, by one of the Judges to the Sheriff of the county, and transmitted by the said Sheriff, or his deputy, to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and presented by such Secretary to the members of the House to which it relates, when they are assembled for the purpose of organizing their House.

Resolved, That when the district is composed of more than one county, the evidence on which such members are admissible is the returns from each county, made as aforesaid, and such returns made by the return judges from the several counties, put under a sealed cover, directed to the Secretary of the Commonwealth by such judges, placed in the nearest Post Office, received by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and by him furnished to the said branch.

Resolved, That such evidence so furnished by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, is conclusive of the right of the member claiming a seat in the first instance, and that whether such returns be true or false. If such returns be false, it can only be inquired of under the act of 1791, &c., by a committee appointed by the House after it is organized, upon a petition regularly made under such act, complaining of such false return, and in the meanwhile until such false return is so set aside, the person certified by it as having the highest number of votes, or duly elected, is entitled to his seat in the House, and to vote on all questions, except such as relate to contesting his seat.

Resolved, That as we adhere to the constitution and laws, we will organize the respective branches of the legislature, in no other way or manner than that so pointed out by law.

On motion a joint committee of three members of each House was appointed to report fully to the meeting on Monday the 3d of December. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the same place on the Monday following; when having re-assembled, Mr. Strohm again in the chair, a quorum of Senators and fifty-two members of the House present. The committee appointed on the part of the Senate made the following report—

The committee on the part of the Senate appointed by the Democratic members of the Senate and House to consider the mode of proceeding in organizing the respective branches of the Legislature.

REPORT.

That they have conferred with the committee on the part of the house, and that they are unanimously of opinion that in organizing either branch of the Legislature, the members are bound to receive in the first instance the returns of the election made either under the act of 1799, or 1803 and furnished by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. They are the only returns or evidence of the election which are directed to the body, every other evidence of such election required by law, is under that law, to be preserved for future investigation, after the legislature is organized.

It is totally incompetent to receive any other evidence in such organization, either from one who claims to have been a clerk of a former house, or a member of that which it is proposed to organize, whether such evidence be in the shape of a certificate of a return or other paper filed in his office by a prothonotary or affidavit or other proof because any such evidence may be controverted by other evidence to establish its falsehood, and the members present possess no power to receive such evidence, because they have no power to administer such tests upon which alone evidence can be received. They could not administer an oath to a witness, and if such one among them undertook to do so, and the witness should swear falsely, he could not be indicted and convicted of perjury.

The returns from the Secretary must be adhered to in the first instance and if seats acquired under it are disputed, they must be contested under the act of 1791, and the subsequent acts on that subject, either because the return is false, or because there has been an undue election. These acts are in conformity to the 2 section of the first article of the constitution of the state, which provides, that contested elections shall be determined by a committee to be selected, formed and regulated in such manner as shall be directed by law.

These returns so furnished by the secretary may be returns under the act of 1799, of an election held in a single county constituting of senatorial district, or such returns, and in addition, the returns made under the act of 1803 by the return judges from several counties which constitute a district.

In the last case where such returns are furnished by the secretary, of such county and district, election, they constitute evidence of equivalent value, and by the face of such returns taken together the right to a seat may be established.

The committee are aware that there is a marked difference between the two branches of the legislature in regard to their formation. The senate was formed at the commencement of the government, and cannot in the ordinary course of events be dissolved. It is intended to be a perpetual body and in contemplation of the Constitution and Laws, it is always an organized body. When it meets at the beginning of a new session, it meets as a senate; and so are its journals from the foundation of the Commonwealth. With the house it is otherwise, it does not at the beginning of a session meet as a house, and there is a corresponding and marked difference in the journals of the two bodies. While the journal of the senate states that the senate met, the journal of the house states that a number of gentlemen elected to the house, &c., met.

The obvious difference might justify the adoption of a different mode of proceeding in the senate, in commencing a new session of that body, from that which should be pursued in the organization of the House, if the action of the senate were not equally controlled by the constitution, and the acts of assembly made in pursuance of it just referred to.—These by necessary inference create the same rule of action for the Senate as the House, as to the mode of proceeding in reference to receiving members elect, notwithstanding the obvious difference in the character of the two houses.

As the true democratic party profess and practice an adherence to the Constitution and Laws, in the silent providence of which the liberties of the people have their best protection, it would not become the senate where this party have long had a salutary ascendancy to permit any departure from them. If the corruptions of a particular party, to which we are opposed, advancing with a giant's pace, have disclosed the insufficiency of laws which for many years have sufficiently protected the rights of the people, let these laws be so modified as to arrest their pernicious progress. From the past we will gather the wisdom of experience, for what is plain we now require a re-modelling of our laws regulating elections, securing them by multiplying the preventative guards against frauds, and increasing the sanctions for the punishment of those who attempt to corrupt the fountain of life of the republic—the election franchise and true mode of its exercise.

Your committee, therefore, are of opinion that in the senate the returns directed to the Senate and sent by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to that body, are the only evidence which can be received as to a right to a seat in it, in the first instance at the opening of the session.

Having fixed the principles which should regulate the action of the body, the particular form of proceeding in their application is so plain that your committee have not thought it material to go into detail on the subject.

The committee on the part of the House made the following report:

The committee appointed to report the manner of proceeding, and principles upon which the House of Representatives should be organized. Report.

That the only evidence of title to a seat (in the first instance) upon which we will act, is the returns sent to the House by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. These reports were fully considered & unanimously adopted, no member present (of either House) expressed the least doubt of their correctness, or the least reluctance to carrying them into practice.

This examination was deliberate, with a full view of the difficulties, which sedition might render it necessary to encounter. Having been threatened with expulsion from the Hall of the House of Representatives before our organization, we had provided against such contingency and agreed that if any violence were used so as to endanger the lives of members, and thus prevent our proceeding according to the principles contained in the foregoing Resolutions, the expelled members of the House would proceed in a body to the bar of the Senate and deliver to them the following paper, it was signed as will be seen by fifty-two members, including the three who afterwards deserted to the enemy, and gave a pretext for like treachery in the Senate.

"The undersigned duly returned members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being a majority, inform the Senate of the said Commonwealth, that certain persons some of them duly returned members of the said House, but being a minority and other disorderly persons not being duly returned members have taken forcible possession of the Hall of the House of Representatives. They have disturbed us in the exercise of our lawful authority, and prevented us by their illegal proceeding, from duly organizing the House in the Hall appropriated to us, and have forced us, in order to avoid disorder and violence; to retire from said Hall. They may presume to organize themselves as a House of Representatives, and we protest against their acts and proceedings as violent and illegal, and we inform the Senate of the facts here stated, that the proper measure may be adopted by the Senate to ascertain the truth and that the Senate may not be deceived in relation thereto."

Wm A. Crabb
R M Barnard
Jer. Cunningham
A N Cassel
T, S. Cunningham
S. Diller
J. C. Fisher
Jac. Gratz
Wm. F. Huguet
J. Herr
J. Konigsmacher
Gottlich Kinzler
Chas Kettlewell
Wm. M. Watts
Benj. R. Mears
Wm. McClaran jr.
Wm. Morton
Win. A. Penman
M. Richardson
Thos. S. Smith
H. S. Spackman
J. Sprout
Thaddeus Stevens
Bernard Way
S. A. Purviance

Wm J. Cians
Francis Beaty
Wm K. Correy
R. Carothers
Michael Day
C. Ehrman
John Funk
R. H. Hinckman
B. G. Herr
Saml. Hutchins
Martin Kendig
Jonas Keim
J. F. Cox
Wm. Loyd
J. MONTELIUS
John Morrison
John McDowell
Saml. F. Reed
Wm. Ramsey
Geo. R. Smith
Jesse P. Smith
John Sheriff
A. Woelper
J. K. Zeilin
A. G. Long

CHESTER BUTLER
JOHN STURDEVANT.

I have shown clearly, I trust, that every step in organizing the Legislature was taken cautiously, carefully, and with the full knowledge and consent of every Anti-Van Buren member of the House, and Senate (not of course including Mr. Fullerton among the number.) My object in this exposition, I have no desire to conceal. I wish to take from those, who have betrayed their friends, and equally, as I believe with the rebels, sacrificed constitutional liberty, every chance of deceiving their constituents at home, and of exciting their capitulation to a revolutionary Government. They might be forgiven the sacrifice of party ascendancy; of their political friends; of the power to legislate beneficially to the public; to choose a State Treasurer, United States Senator, board of public works and other officers of correct principle. They might almost be forgiven the sacrifice of ten high minded gentlemen returned as members from the county of Philadelphia, who had taken their seats in accordance with the constitution, and in reliance upon the honor of their associates; although he, who would thus immolate his friends to propitiate a mob, will find it difficult to escape the scorn of an indignant public. But they cannot, and they will not be forgiven the surrender of the vital principles of the constitution; the independence of the Legislature; and their bartering of the liberty of their country to the purchase peace and favor from organized sedition. When truth shall have triumphed, and facts come to be believed, the people will pronounce them unfaithful stewards. And when posterity shall be groaning under the yoke of a Despot, they will curse their degenerate fathers, who furnished the foundation for tyranny to stand upon.

I trust that my conduct throughout this rebellion will meet with the approbation of my constituents, and the disapprobation of the rebels and their advocates. Much as I would shun the censure of the former, I would even more anxiously avoid the praise of the latter.

Very respectfully
your obedient servant,
THADDEUS STEVENS.



THE JOURNAL.

One country, one constitution, one destiny.

Huntingdon February 6 1839

Democratic Antimasonic CANDIDATES.

FOR PRESIDENT,
GEN. WM. H. HARRISON

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL WEBSTER.

FLAG OF THE PEOPLE!

A single term for the Presidency, and the office administered for the whole PEOPLE, and not for a PARTY.

A sound, uniform and convenient National CURRENCY, adapted to the wants of the whole COUNTRY, instead of the SHIN PLASTERIES brought about by our present RULERS.

ECONOMY, RETRENCHMENT, and REFORM in the administration of public affairs, Tired of Experiments and Experimenters, Republican gratitude will reward unobtrusive merit, by elevating the subaltern of WASHINGTON and the disciple of JEFFERSON, and thus resuming the safe and beaten track of our Fathers.—L. Gazette.

We have on file the interesting and truly republican letter of General Harrison, to the Hon. Harmer Denny—we shall insert it next week.

Stevens' Letter.

Our readers will find in this days paper, the last letter of this distinguished gentleman and orator. It is an interesting and important one; as it is particularly calculated to show up the consistency of those "conscientious" and patriotic worthies, who, according to their own declarations, committed, a plain, and palpable wrong.

Governor's Message.

We this week give our readers the message of Governor Porter, relative to the finances of the State. It is a most extraordinary document; and one which is calculated to shed but little credit upon its ostensible author, being characterized by nothing but deception, humbug, and hypocritical cant.

He commences by telling what an "everlasting stigma" would rest on Pennsylvania, if her "creditor" were allowed to knock for a single hour at the door of an empty treasury." Yet, well he knows, that a part of the state debt has been due since January, 1, and that his "provisional" members, and himself have allowed a continual knocking for a month. The Senate passed a bill on the 1st January, to meet the demand, but the Loco Foco House preferred to bring on Pennsylvania the "everlasting stigma," of having a creditor knocking for a month at the door of an "empty treasury."

He then proceeds to lay before the Legislature the entire amount of Public Debt—which he declares, amounts to upwards of 30 millions of Dollars. A more paltry, and contemptible trick, was never attempted by a travelling mountebank, to deceive his spectators, than is here attempted to be played off upon the unsuspecting citizens. He enumerates five items of Public debt. The first four of which amounts to 24 millions, were contracted previous to the commencement of Ritner's administration—the next two amounting to one, were contracted by Gov. Ritner, and the remaining three, which Porter has attempted to saddle upon Gov. Ritner, is to disreputable almost to deserve a passing notice. They are comprised in "appropriations due to miscellaneous objects, and Internal Improvements, and the surplus Revenue drawn from the U. S. Treasury." Now we would just ask our readers, if they do not well recollect, Gov. Ritner's veto, of the Large appropriation bill, for which Porter voted, and if they do not recollect that the house of Representatives was governed by a large majority of Porter's friends, who finally passed a bill for these miscellaneous objects, which Ritner allowed to become a law, because the same bill contained the only appropriations, to useful and necessary objects. Do you not remember all this? Yet Mr. Porter endeavors to lay the blame on Gov. Ritner, who vetoed and opposed all these things for which he himself, (Porter) voted. Was there ever a more miserable feint made to throw the blame from

his own to another's shoulders—and finally to sum up the whole of his chicanery, he says that nearly 6 millions of the above debt, was contracted during the last three years.

Now we ask Gov. Porter, or any of his editors what are these miscellaneous appropriations, that he has dragged into state debt. They know they are to Academies, &c., the greater portion of which is not to be paid for years to come. Yet he calls it state debt—is not such a trick disgraceful to a Governor, to make an excuse for the large INCREASE of DEBT, he intends to saddle on the people. He tries by deception to make it appear, that his predecessor, had done the same, when every man of judgment, knows that it is not true, for Ritner actually decreased the state debt.

Let us examine this matter more closely. Gov. Porter says, that the State debt has been increased in three years, in the following items which he says amounts to \$5,345,201.

Temporary Loan, 1836	\$200,000
do do 1838	800,000
Due on miscellaneous appropriations,	1,545,729
Int. Imp. "	532,055
Surplus revenue,	1,867,514
	\$4,945,301

The three latter items we say, are not debts all. The appropriations were never sanctioned by Ritner, and have never been demanded, and perhaps never will be. The surplus revenue, never can, never will, nor never ought to be paid.

	3,945,301
	\$1,000,000

This being the only debt contracted during Ritner's administration of three years, and we can show how this came about. Gov. Ritner, when he came in power, had to pay the following debts, not contracted by him.

Two loans contracted by Wolf	\$674,440
Part Permanent Loan,	100,000
On acts of April and June,	75,000
"Mitchell Scrip."	18,568
	\$867,808

Leaving but a balance of \$132,000 Dollars of Ritner's debt to be paid by Porter, although Gov. Ritner has had the whole expense of calling the convention, and the holding of the convention to pay. Yet Porter says he has increased the State Debt nearly 6 million of Dollars, in three years—now let our readers look if they cannot see his attempt at deception, and why it is? Let us tell you, he knows that the State debt must be increased by him, and he desires to make it appear that "every body does it." He has now been Governor nearly a month, and loan bills have passed, amounting to nearly \$2,000,000, and he shows in this message that he is not to be satisfied with that. But we have already occupied enough of our paper for this week, with this subject, we shall continue it next week, and in the meantime, we call on our readers, to carefully examine the message, and let them, then remember, what we said last fall—Porter and State Debt.

Great Flood and Storm.

The Schuylkill and Lehigh rivers, and their tributary streams, have been visited by one of the most terrible floods ever recollected; on Friday the 25th instant—Great injury was sustained on the Schuylkill, at Philadelphia; almost every thing on the wharves being swept off; stables, out houses, hog pens and the like were all carried off; one man lost about 40 hogs. Much coal and salt was swept away. The basement story of Humphrey's warehouse was filled, and about 400 barrels of flour damaged and destroyed. A number of schooners and boats were floated up high and dry, some on the top of large coal heaps; 40 or 50 canal boats were seen at one time rushing down the stream. Much injury was done to the Philadelphia and Baltimore rail road.

At Manyunk, 7 miles above Philadelphia much damage was sustained, many dwellings of poor families and out houses were carried off by the resistless flood. The Factories, and mills are much injured, and consequently, hundreds of poor, daily laborers are now out of employment. The bridge and dam above Manyunk are much injured. It is thought, the dam will finally give way. A Mr. Burke lost his stable, horse, sulkey and harness. Some of the residence on the hill side were obliged to escape out of their second story windows; 24 canal boats were down the stream, one of which broke into, on the pier of the bridge; a horse carried down stream, caught against a tree and the flesh was literally stripped from

his bones, by the ice; numerous breaches were made in the canal bank.

The Norristown Herald says, the Schuylkill was 21 feet above low water mark, and its whole surface covered with logs, building furniture &c. The Norristown rail road, was much injured. A widow Ramsey, her son and a little girl, were completely surrounded in a lock house, by the torrent, and were forced to the second story by the water, where they remained without fire, till the next morning, with the flood roaring around them and the ice threatening at every moment to dash their little asylum into the deep. In the morning, they were rescued, all previous attempts failing. Five persons engaged in removing goods from the store of S. M'Cann, were cut off in their retreat, and forced into the store, which was finally swept off, but lodged against a tree, upon which they all climbed; providentially, a canal boat came within their reach, as they could not have held to the tree much longer; they made their escape to it, from which, they were taken in the morning, nearly exhausted, and much frosted. Another house was carried off, after a part of the inmates had been rescued; the father and mother alone remaining—the former succeeded in getting on a tree, but became exhausted and fell into the water.

The Lehigh Journal says "much damage was sustained in that neighborhood, and it is calculated, it will take three or four months to repair the injury done to the canal". The driver, the mail, and one horse, were lost in attempting to cross the Wissahicon near Allentown.

New York has been the scene of a disaster, equally distressing as the above. On Saturday, one of the most terrific gales ever experienced; forced the water in that harbor, up to such a height, that boats passed freely in Front Street, and passengers from the ferry boats were landed in small boats at Holt's hotel. The damage attendant upon such a scene, can much easily be imagined, than described. The border of the city from Corlear's hook to Greenwich village, on the Northern side; of course, basements, stores and cellars, were filled with water; and their contents damaged, or destroyed, dozens of vessels were driven against each other, or the piers, and stove in, or sunk; some of the streets are filled with huge masses of ice. The work of destruction was not confined to the water side; the gale swept with terrific fury over the city. Houses were unroofed, or blown down; their chimneys blown down, and every other damage imaginable. The whole tin roof of a large store, was carried some hundred feet, and rolled up like a scroll. The whole atmosphere, is said, to have been filled with slate, tile, shingles and fragments of wood. In Elizabethtown, N. J., the damage was extensive; a large oil cloth factory was levelled with the ground the workmen, with the exception of one man, heard the cracking of the timbers in time to escape; and even he escaped with no injury but a broken arm, he was found suspended by that, held between a couple of timbers.

There has been also a considerable of a flood at Albany. The sudden breaking up of the ice swept a large amount of property away. The splendid steam boat North America, worth \$90,000 was smashed to atoms by the ice, and the fragments carried down the stream.

Canal Board.

The new Board, are, Jas. Clark, E. B. Hubley, and W. F. Packer.

Nothing is more in keeping with rotating Democrats, than the above Board. Jimmy Clark, has held office for the last quarter of a century, and Mr. Hubley is called from Congress, being the representative from Schuylkill county, and of course, his constituents must go unrepresented, or else go to the expense of a new election. He has rotated into another office. Packer is a Printer. He like that. But such of our readers who can recollect the howlings of the Loco Foco presses, at Ritner's appointing printers, will perhaps expect to see the same consistent gentleman complain now.

Congress has appointed a committee to investigate the defalcations in public offices. The committee have already gone on to New York to commence their labors in ferretting out the Swartwout and Price corruptions. The people should recollect that General Jackson gave a certificate of good character to these plunderers, and that a former congress refused as a useless expense to permit a committee to be appointed.