

From the Har. Intelligencer.  
**STATE DEBT.**  
**DEFINITION AND AMOUNT AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.**

We have frequently defined State Debt to be those loans which are denominated "permanent," and are made for a term of years to induce capitalists to afford facilities on the lowest possible terms.

In this view we have excluded "temporary" loans from the definition of "State Debt," in its strict sense, because they are only financial operations of a temporary nature, and the claims created by them are intended to be discharged on the first opportunity. Thus they are no more permanent debt on the part of the State, than is a private loan by an individual, after the close of the bank today in which he has his funds, procured to enable him to conduct his business until he can, when the bank opens to-morrow morning, draw upon his resources in the institution.

But "temporary" loans may lead to a "permanent debt," on the part of the State, by "permanent" loans becoming necessary to discharge them. Gov. Porter's administration has given us an instance of this kind, by contracting a temporary loan for immediate use, until a permanent one can be contracted, when it is intended to redeem the temporary by part of a permanent loan, which is double its amount.

These are the definitions of 'state debt' and "temporary loans," recognized by the late administration. Believing them the only sound definitions, we shall apply them to the debt of the State at the respective advents of Gov. Wolf, Gov. Ritner, and Gov. Porter.

The permanent debt of the State, when Gov. Wolf came into power was

When Gov. Ritner came into power the permanent debt of the State, was

Showing an increase during Gov. Wolf's six years of

When Gov. Porter came into power the permanent State debt, was

Showing a reduction during Gov. Ritner's three years of

From this it appears that Gov. Porter found the State debt to be \$24,229,003 23, on the 15th day of January last. This sum has since that date been increased as follows:

Permanent Loan per act of Jan. 1839, \$1,200,000 do. Feb. do, 1,280,000

Making the permanent loans of Gov. Porter already Out of these \$2,480,000, there will be discharged of the permanent debt, an instalment amounting to 220,000

Leaving a balance of POSITIVE INCREASE TO THE PERMANENT DEBT OF THE STATE since Gov. Porter has been in office of \$2,260,000

This statement challenges denial, and is as favorable to Gov. Porter as can be consistent with the facts on record. It needs no further comment. The facts are of such a character that none can read and not understand them.

We might have included in the above, a temporary loan already made under Gov. Porter, of \$650,000, which will be added to the permanent debt in time, as a permanent loan will in all probability be necessary to repay it.

**SENTIMENTS OF JOSEPH RITNER ON THE SUBJECT OF STATE DEBT.**

Joseph Ritner was elected in 1835 as the anti-debt candidate. He was pledged to check the increase of the State debt, and if possible, reduce it. We have shown above how this pledge was redeemed, and we now subjoin a few extracts from his state papers to show what were his views on this important subject.

"With the VAST DEBT already contracted before us, prudence would forbid the undertaking of any new, separate, and independent works, until those now in operation and in progress, prove, by actual experience, to be capable of sustaining themselves, and furnish evidence that they will, in a reasonable time, extinguish their original cost, without resort to taxation.—Gov. Ritner's Inaug. Address.

"Our chief object should be the application of all our energies to the REDUCTION OF THE STATE DEBT,—and the expenditure of no more of the means in the construction of new work than is absolutely necessary to render available and profitable the outlays already made and hitherto unproductive. If we can once effect even the smallest DECREASE of the debt, and reduction of the rate of interest, we will have stemmed the tide. The TOTAL EXTINCTION will then be the work of a very few years."—Gov. Ritner's Annual Message, 1836-7.

"It may be therefore fairly assumed, as a calculation within bounds, that the passage of this bill will cause an addition of twenty-one millions of dollars to our present debt of about twenty-four, making a gross

debt, at a period no more remote than 1841, of FORTY-FIVE millions. I AM NOT PREPARED TO SANCTION THIS, nor to become an agent in saddling such an incumbrance upon the farms and industry of Pennsylvania."

"Two of the objects contended for by those who selected me to administer the Executive functions of the Government were—THE DECREASE OF THE STATE DEBT, and the vigorous prosecution and early completion of the public works of the commonwealth. Both will either be defeated or retarded by the present bill if it become a law."

"If my fears are correct as to the great increase of the State debt, of which this bill, if passed, will be the parent, I should feel it to be an abandonment of duty to the people, were I to omit any constitutional means to arrest it. Our enormous public debt must have a tendency to retard the increase of our population and productive industry, if not to diminish them. Although such debt is not in form a judgement upon the property of the people, yet in effect it is an absolute lien. The faith and property of the Commonwealth and of every citizen in it, are pledged for its redemption. It is obvious that the lands of a community encumbered with a lien of fifty or an hundred millions of dollars, are worth less than the unincumbered property of other States. Hence, if the amount of debt be increased beyond the common advantages to be derived from the undertakings that produced it, it is plain that prudent men will be unwilling to purchase and hold property which must remain subject to its repayment. Such incumbrances must finally and unavoidably rest upon the most meritorious class of people—the farmers and mechanics."—Gov. Ritner's Veto of the Mammoth Improvement Bill, 1837-8.

"But while I avow my readiness to do so, (co-operate with the Legislature in making judicious appropriations,) I WISH IT TO BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES WILL COMPEL ME TO CONSENT TO A PERMANENT INCREASE OF THE STATE DEBT. All our energies should now be devoted to such measures as will ensure and hasten its decrease."—Gov. Ritner's Annual Message, 1837-8.

"I desire to be distinctly understood as maintaining an unchanged opinion on the subject of State debt, and of the public improvements. And I wish it to be known that so long as I continue in my present station, I will on all occasions adhere to the opinions heretofore expressed.—Gov. Ritner's Message approving Appropriation Bill, 1837-8.

We have given pretty liberal extracts in order to refresh the memory of our readers on this subject, and to relieve us from full quotations hereafter, when we refer to the sentiments of Governor Ritner. The foregoing just principles were the principles of the late administration. The record of them and of their exact observance, may be found in the archives of the Commonwealth. They triumphantly bear a contrast with the principles and practices of the present rulers of Pennsylvania.

**GOVERNOR PORTER'S SENTIMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF STATE DEBT.**  
 We extract the only positive official declaration we have yet received of Gov. Porter's sentiments on the subject of the increase of the State debt. It was given to the world in the first hour of his official existence.

"Unwilling as I am, needlessly TO INCREASE THE STATE DEBT, the soundest dictates of public policy require THE ADOPTION OF THE LATTER COURSE."—Gov. Porter's Inaugural Address.

The above avowal has already been partially carried out, and there is every probability of its further observance.

When it is remembered that Governor Porter was elected by a party who professed to wish a reduction of the State debt, the above (together with the acts of His Excellency) will stand as indubitable evidence that those professions were **HOLLOW AS SOUNDING BRASS.**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**

We learn from the Baltimore American that a melancholy accident occurred on Monday, on the Baltimore & Susquehanna rail road, about twenty miles from that city. A woman was waiting at one of the stopping places to take her passage for Baltimore, when the train approached and gave the usual signal. Finding herself on the wrong side to get into the cars, the woman attempted to cross the track, but before she could do so, the engine struck her on the head and she fell between the rails; the train passing over her and instantly severing one of her arms. When taken up she was quite dead. Every effort was made by the engineer to stop the engine, but the impudent movement of the woman was so sudden that his exertions were fruitless.

The passengers in the cars united in a certificate exonerating the conductor and engineer from all blame whatever.—*Com. Herald.*

A bill has been introduced in the Mississippi Senate, and will probably pass, authorizing the Governor, to purchase, at an expense of \$25,000, a marble statue of Washington, to be placed in the rotunda of the capitol at Jackson.

From the Register.  
 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBER,  
 Harrisburg, 6th Feb. 1839

Mr. J. P. Jones:

Sir—We happened, by chance, this day to see a paper called the "Advocate & Sentinel," in which we saw the proceedings of a meeting said to have been held in Huntingdon on the 15th January last, and among the proceedings we find a resolution in the following words, viz.

"Resolved, That Messrs. Cunningham and Morrison, the Representatives from this county, having lost the confidence of the virtuous and just of all parties, be respectfully requested to resign their seats to make room for better men."

Now we would like to see the gentlemen who appear to have figured in this meeting, why it is that they did not send us a copy of this resolution, as it was impossible for us to obey, without knowing their wishes.

But we would just inform them we do not feel fully at liberty to grant their request, for the following reasons:

1st. Because we consider it would be rather too polite to resign upon the resolution of men who found themselves in the minority about one thousand, when they exerted all their influence and abilities to oppose our election; and

2nd. Because we do not consider Wm. R. McCay, A. Gwin and some of their associates, capable of fairly representing "the confidence of the virtuous and just of all parties," in Huntingdon county.

Yours respectfully,  
 JERH. CTUNNINGHAM,  
 JOHN MORRISON.

**PERILOUS ADVENTURE—DARING INTREPIDITY, PRAISEWORTHY BENEVOLENCE.**

Information reached this city yesterday morning, that several families who lived in dwellings situated on the meadows above the city, were prevented from reaching the shore in consequence of the rise of the treshet; they were driven in the upper apartments of their houses, and the water still rising, had reached them there; their lives were threatened, and in their distress they called loudly for assistance.

The river at this time was full of driving ice, the water had raised to a fearful height, and it seemed folly and rashness to attempt a rescue of the suffering and unfortunate beings. At this critical juncture, and when their situation appeared to all who witnessed them from the shore, & heard their cries for "help" to be almost hopeless, nine young men of this city volunteered to make an effort to save them.

With this determination they furnished themselves with some light boards and ventured out on the floating cakes of ice, leaping from one body to another, and frequently preventing themselves from sinking by laying their boards across the loose pieces of ice, then laying themselves down at full length and paddling with their hands in the water. Thus, after a long and tedious as well as fearful attempt, they succeeded in reaching the dwelling. Here they found four or five families in a most distressing condition, some having been driven into their garrets for safety and expected every moment to be carried away by the flood. They then with a deliberate caution and prudence which is seldom exhibited in the daring acts of young men, carefully planned measures which should be the safest and surest method of their reaching the shore. And after a second hazardous journey on the driving ice, they succeeded in preserving three families from a watery grave, among whom we saw one poor decrepit female, upwards of eighty years of age. Such disinterested acts of humanity call loudly for the esteem and praise of the public, and should never go unrewarded.—*Hartford (Conn) Review.*

From the Trenton State Gazette.  
**A SERIES OF DISASTERS.**

A few weeks ago, a boy of Gideon Hulit, near Allentown, fell into his father's mill pond, while sliding on the ice. One of his brothers was near, and went to his assistance, but broke through the ice himself. A third and fourth brother, and then the father, attracted by the cries of the drowning boys, ran, one after another, to save them; but they too fell through the ice. The father and one of the boys extricated themselves; but [were unable to rescue the three others.

At the funeral of these boys, the carriage of their uncle was dashed to pieces, the horses becoming restive, and the uncle's collar bone broken, or dislocated. Those who had been in this carriage, got into another, which was also overturned and broken; and the horse ran against the vehicle of another uncle, upset it, and threw out those who were inside, without however, injuring them seriously. It was reported, also, says our informer, that the father of the boys, on returning from the funeral, found his house on fire.

**GOOD NEWS.**

We find the following in the National Intelligencer of Saturday the 9th. inst.

"We are happy to learn from a gentleman who accompanied the French officers from Baltimore, that hostilities have been terminated between France and Mexico. Through the intervention and mediation of Admiral Douglas, commanding the British fleet on the Mexican coast, terms of accommodation have been mutually agreed on by the belligerents, and hostilities had ceased. The particulars will doubtless reach us before long."



**THE JOURNAL.**  
 One country, one constitution, one destiny

Huntingdon, Feb. 20, 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 PLASTERS 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.*

**More about the Appointments**

Never in the annals of political, or party warfare, have we seen more honest indignation evinced, than that shown by most of the honest supporters of David R. Porter, at the appointments which have been made under his administration.

During a campaign of three years, the whole energies of that party were directed to convincing the people, that Ritner's administration had insulted the people's rights, first, by increasing supervisors—next, by appointing men to fill offices in one county who had lately removed into it, or who were brought from another county—and last, though not least, by appointing men who had not any petitions, over those who had large and respectable ones.

Every honest supporter of Mr. Porter knows that those three charges were industriously inculcated, and honestly believed by themselves to be cause of complaint. In what situation are they now placed. Every objection made against Ritner's administration holds doubly good against the present, and to their honor be it spoken, they honestly admit that they have been deceived.

They spent their breath in saying that six supervisors were appointed to perform what three had formerly done, and consequently the administration of Ritner was corrupt; for fear some have forgotten it, we will just take an extract from McCay's paper.

"Moses J. Clark, Wm. Reed, J. Wharton and George W. Patton have been appointed supervisors on that part of the canal formerly attended to by TWO SUPERVISORS—from Hollidaysburg to Millerstown."

By a reference to our last weeks paper, it will be seen that there are four appointed between Hollidaysburg and the dam, at the Long Narrows. What consistency. We do not wonder that the honest portion of the party are ashamed to support it.

Then again, the wicked conduct of Ritner's administration in taking men to fill offices who did not reside in the county. Let us hear what some of them said on that subject.

"Some of our oldest and best citizens whose capacity and integrity were undisputed and indisputable, applied for offices on the canal; they had the best possible recommendation. But, no, the decree had gone forth—men having no claims—no petitions from the citizens, are preferred."—*Huntingdon Gazette, April 3, 1836.*

"The appointments in every county have justly disgusted the thinking people. The best office in this county was bartered to a man who lived in another county.—We are well provided for in comparison to Huntingdon county.—A number of counties have been treated far worse.—*Lewistown Republican, May, 24, 1836.*

"Many of the agents have been taken from counties remote from the canal. The consequences are such as might have been foreseen. There is no order, system, or skill in the management."—*Extract from Harrisburg Reporter in Huntingdon Gazette May 4, 1836.*

"It is a little singular, that in Huntingdon county as well as Northampton, the collector was taken from a distance while numerous respectable applicants at home were unheeded. If Mr. Ritner has so many hungry cormorants all over the State, who have had a previous promise, why it will play the very devil with himself—that's all."—*Extract from Easton Argus, in Huntingdon Gazette, April 6, 1836.*

Here then we think we have given, words of their own. "Out of their own mouths have we condemned them." Could not the worthy writer of the first extract, find under this pure administration, that "some of the oldest and best citizens— with the best possible recommendations,"—were supplanted by men having "no claims—no petitions," and yet we doubt not he would talk of consistency. We rejoice that the people are too honest to be duped. They thought such things, wrong, and they opposed Ritner; and they think, it entirely out of place, for a man, who talked so much against it, as Mr. Porter did, to be guilty of the same thing—they think him wrong, and will say of him as they can of most politicians. If he was honest before the election, he is dishonest after. But let us look over some of these appointments, and see how they tally with their professions.

David Rightmyer, of Berks Co, Collector at New Port, Perry County.

John Heiner of Berks co, Collector at Middletown, Dauphin co.

Joseph Snyder, of Berks co. Collector at Downingtown, Chester co.

James Patton of Franklin co. Collector at Columbia Lancaster co.

Joseph B. Sugert of Centre co. Collector at Lewistown, Mifflin co.

Wm. Ingram, of Green co. Collector at Pittsburg, Allegheny co.

R. F. Grigg of Washington co. Weighmaster at the same place.

John Potts, of Butler co. Collector at Johnstown, Cambria co.

Wm. C. Morehead of Baltimore, State of Maryland, Supervisor on the Portage Rail Road.

Wm. G. Hibbs of Bucks co. Collector at Easton Northampton co.

Here are examples enough, we presume to satisfy our readers.

What do you suppose the Harrisburg Reporter will say now? Three years ago it said, that to "take agents from the counties remote from the canal would destroy all skill order, and system, that any one with half an eye might have foreseen it."

The Lewistown Republican was unaccountably rabid because Hamilton Semple was appointed collector. Now what does it think of having a man appointed from Centre county. The Northampton Easton Argus, now must submit patiently to have a collector brought from Bucks co. to take toll at their place, although he seemed to think that because Ritner appointed a collector at that port from another county, that it would "play the devil with himself." Has that paper now independence enough to say Porter will play the devil with himself, or will he patiently say anything is right that is done now. Out upon such cringing time serving consciences!

But we have not done with the subject. Where was the right of petition; Ritner received their anathemas, morning, noon, and night, wherever he appointed a man, whose petition was said to be an inch shorter than the other. Let us look at the appointments—Is any man fool enough to suppose, that David Rightmyer, ever had one name to a petition to appoint him collector at New Port, Perry Co. Would not his fellow citizens of Berks, laugh at him, if he had even asked them to sign such a petition? would not the "indignant Freeman" of old Perry have chased him out of the county, if they had caught him there picking up signatures to his petition? and so with all the rest of them. What would the people of Mifflin thought, had Mr. Shugert appeared in their town, and tried to get petitioners? The truth is, they had no petitions—Mr. Hemphill, and Steel, of Mifflin, both had petitions, their prayers were passed as unheeded as the idle wind—a stranger stepped in.

Where was the right of petition in the case of Irvin Horrell, who was recommended by many of their leading men, from Erie, to Philadelphia; was his petition ever read, no! we do not think it was even opened, and he must quietly give place to those who never had a single name, nor even made a request.—Thus is the right of petition treated, by those people loving Loco Focos.

There is no wonder, that the honest indignation of the people, burst out in uncontrollable murmurs; the very things which they complained of, are practised by the man of their choice. He who was loudest in his professions of love for the people. He insults their petitions, and makes them hear the taunts of the very men they used to laugh at, and what is worst they return their own words.

Only remember what bitter denunciations you have in the Court House, about

the right of petition and then ask yourself whether these men, had any petitions. Even Maryland, and Ohio, had been called upon to furnish officers on our canal. Mr. Moorehead of Baltimore, takes an important situation; and how long a petition had he. Why we think we can solve that, it must have been about so long.—*J. K. Moorehead.* This is the magic petition that brought him from out of our borders.

We have written enough at present on this subject; we will let it rest for another week, and then "we'll gie a hearty dose out," as will keep their spirits up.

**One more Appointment.**

John Piper of Bedford county, to be collector at this port.

This is the cap-stone of all the appointments—it is the Key-stone. At this place where a continued scene of abuse was kept up against us, because we had not seen "two crops grow in this county."—Here, where column upon column was written, to show the corruption used to get a certain yankee made collector—Here, where their moans were heard, loud and long, over the worthy, old, and capable citizens, who they said were disappointed; they have the same bitter cup held to their lips, and they must drink it to the dregs.

It was an outrage to appoint A. W. Benedict collector, he had not been but a short time in this county; was it? Well, how do you like it, you "old, worthy and capable citizens?" We see among you, some who were loudest among the loud against the wicked outrage, and who daily, and almost hourly poured disaffection into some farmers ears, against the administration, that would be guilty of it.

But by whom are they overreached? By a man from another county, whose only recommendation, or petition, was founded in certain equal qualifications which are shown at the best advantage on the turf, where scrub races are run. "Birds of a feather" is an old, and truly saying. Had he any petition? did any citizens of this county, see a petition for John Piper to be collector at this port. We guess not. But we presume you saw those of others,—Daniel Africa, Andrew Hirst, William Hildebrand and some others; was the right of petition respected, when their petitions were laid under the table, and their places filled by the verbal demand of that consummate bully and blackguard, McElweel?—Do not some of you, honest Porter men remember with what solemnity you have passed resolves in your meetings; against men who have not seen two crops grow in your county?—what do you think of those who have not seen any.

We understand it, that our contemporary of the Advocate was an applicant also. We wonder not a little at that. A careful examination of his paper three years ago, would convince any one, that he was so strongly opposed to having printers appointed, that if the Canal Commissioners, recollected it, they would not have appointed him, fearing that it might be an infringement upon his rights of conscience. And in pure respect for his tender feelings on that subject, would take the burthen off his shoulders. We trust however he will bear it patiently.

**New Arrangements.**

Since writing the above, the interesting information has come to town, that Piper was not willing to be a piper for the party, at the paltry salary of 480 dollars per annum. He first applied for collector at Hollidaysburg, but was disappointed, when his friends said he must have something, that something was presented in the shape of the Collector's office, here. Whatever was the Price of some men, Piper would not stand it, and his bully friend, flared up we suppose, and Lo! the sporting gentleman, is allowed, by some writ of "hantabogus" to obtain "judgment of ouster" against Jas Ford, appointed at the weigh-scales at Hollidaysburg, and Mr. Piper takes his place, while Mr. Ford is forced over the mountain, to Johnstown, to be weighmaster there—and the man who should have, and would have been appointed at first, had he not been out-General. Andrew Hirst is appointed collector here.

Is not this enough to make every honest man in the party blush for the corruption and abuse of power. A man, who by their own doctrines, "living remote from the canal," has no claims on the public works, is master of ceremonies, and the Commissioners must dance as he pleases to Piper. Every objection made against Ritner is doubled against Porter. His own partisans see it, and honestly express their censure.