

into the argument, I will say that, in looking to the powers of this Government to collect, safely keep, and disburse the public revenue, and incidentally to regulate the commerce and exchanges, I have not been able to satisfy myself that the establishment of a bank of discount, in the ordinary acceptance of that term, was a necessary means, or one demanded by propriety, to execute those powers.

What can the local discounts of the bank have to do with the collecting, safe keeping, and disbursing of the revenue? So far as the mere discounting of paper is concerned, it is quite immaterial to this question whether the discount is obtained at a State Bank or the United States Bank. They are both equally local—both beginning and both ending in a local accommodation. What influence have local discounts, granted by any form of bank, in the regulating of currency and the exchanges? Let the history of the late United States Bank aid us in answering this inquiry.

For several years after the establishment of that institution it dealt almost exclusively in local discounts, and during that period, the country was, for the most part, disappointed in the consequences anticipated from its incorporation.

A uniform currency was not provided, exchanges were not regulated, and little or nothing was added to the general circulation; and in 1820, its embarrassments were so great that the directors petitioned Congress to repeal that article of the charter which made its notes receivable every where in payment of public debts. It had, up to that period, dealt to but a very small extent in exchanges, either foreign or domestic; and as late as 1823, its operations in that line amounted to a little more than \$7,000,000 per annum; a very rapid augmentation soon after occurred, and in 1833 its dealings in exchanges amounted to upwards of \$100,000,000, including the sales of its own drafts; and all these immense transactions were effected with out the employment of extraordinary means.

The currency of the country became sound, and the negotiations in the exchanges were carried on at the lowest possible rates. The circulation was increased to more than \$22,000,000, and the notes of the Bank were regarded as equal to specie all over the country; thus showing, almost conclusively, that it was the capacity to deal in exchanges, and not in local discounts, which furnished these facilities and advantages. It may be remarked, too, that notwithstanding the immense transactions of the Bank in the purchase of exchange, the losses sustained were merely nominal; while in the line of discounts, the suspended debt was enormous, and proved most disastrous to the Bank and to the country. Its power of local discount has, in fact, proved to be a fruitful source of favoritism and corruption, alike destructive to the public morals and the general weal.

The capital invested in banks of discount in the United States, created by the States, at this time exceeds \$350,000,000; and if the discounting of local paper could have produced any beneficial effects, the United States ought to possess the soundest currency in the world but the reverse is lamentably the fact.

Is the measure now under consideration, of the objectionable character to which I have alluded? It is clearly so unless the 16th fundamental article of the 11th section is made otherwise. That article is in the following words:

"The directors of the said corporation shall establish one competent office of discount and deposit in any State in which two thousand shall have been subscribed, or may be held, whenever, upon application of the Legislature of such State, or Congress may by law require the same. And the said directors may also establish one or more competent offices of discount or deposit in any Territory or District of the United States, and when established, the said office or offices shall be only withdrawn or removed by the said directors prior to the expiration of this charter, with the previous assent of Congress."

Provided, in respect to any State which shall not, at the first session of the Legislature thereof, held after the passage of this act, by resolution, or other usual legislative proceeding, unconditionally assent or dissent to the establishment of such office or offices within it, such assent of the said State shall be thereafter presumed. And provided nevertheless, That whenever it shall become necessary and proper for carrying into execution any of the powers granted by the Constitution, to establish an office or offices in any of the States whatever, and the establishment thereof shall be directed by law, it shall be the duty of the said directors to establish such office or offices accordingly."

It will be seen that by this clause the directors are invested with the fullest power to establish a branch in any State which has yielded its assent; and having once established such branch, it shall not afterwards be withdrawn except by order of Congress. Such assent is to be implied and to have the force and sanction of an actually expressed assent, "provided in respect to any State which shall not, at the first session of the Legislature thereof, held after the passage of this act, by resolution or other usual legislative proceeding, unconditionally assent or dissent to the establishment of such office or offices within it, such assent of said State shall be thereafter presumed." The assent or dissent is to be expressed unconditionally at the first session of the Legislature by some formal legislative act; and if not so expressed, its assent is to be im-

plied, and if the directors are thereupon invested with power, at such time thereafter as they may please, to establish branches, which cannot afterwards be withdrawn, except by resolve of Congress.

No matter what may be the cause which may operate with the Legislature, which either prevents it from speaking, or addresses itself to its wisdom, to induce delay, its assent is implied. This iron rule is to give way to no circumstances—it is unbending and inflexible. It is the language of the master to the vassal—an unconditional answer is claimed forthwith; and delay, postponement, or incapacity to answer, produces an implied assent, which is ever after irrevocable. Many of the State elections have already taken place, without any knowledge, on the part of the people, that such a question was to come up.

The Representatives may desire a submission of the question to their constituents preparatory to final action upon it, but this high privilege is denied; whatever may be the motives and views entertained by the Representatives of the people to induce delay, their assent is to be presumed, and is ever afterward binding, unless their dissent shall be unconditionally expressed at their first session after the passage of this bill into a law. They may by formal resolution declare the question of assent or dissent to be undecided and postponed, and yet, in opposition to their express declaration to the contrary, their assent is to be implied. Cases innumerable might be cited to manifest the irrationality of such an inference.

Let one or two in addition, suffice. The popular branch of the Legislature may express its dissent by an unanimous vote, and its resolution may be defeated by a tie vote in the Senate; and yet the assent is to be implied. Both branches of the Legislature may concur in a resolution of decided dissent, and yet the Governor may exert the veto power conferred on him by the State constitution, and their legislative action be defeated; and yet the assent of the legislative authority is implied, and the directors of this contemplated institution are authorized to establish a branch or branches in such State, whenever they may find it conducive to the interest of the stockholders to do so; and having once established it, they can, under no circumstances, withdraw it, except by act of Congress. The State may afterward protest against such unjust interference—but its authority is gone.

Its assent is implied by its failure or inability to act at its first session, and its voice can never afterwards be heard. To inferences so violent, and, as they seem to me, irrational, I cannot yield my consent. No court of justice would or could sanction them, without reversing all that is established in judicial proceeding, by introducing presumptions at variance with fact, and inferences at the expense of reason. A State in a condition of duress would be presumed to speak, as an individual, manacled, and in prison, might be presumed to be in the enjoyment of freedom. Far better to say to the States boldly and frankly, Congress wills, and submission is demanded.

It may be said that the directors may not establish branches under such circumstances; but this is a question of power, and this bill invested them with full power to do so. If the Legislature of New York, or Pennsylvania, or any other State, should be found to be in such a condition as I have supposed, could there be any security furnished against such a step on the part of the directors? Nay, is it not fairly to be presumed that this proviso was introduced for the sole purpose of meeting the contingency referred to? Why else should it have been introduced? And I submit to the Senate, whether it can be believed that any State would be likely to sit quietly down under such a state of things?

In a great measure of public interest their patriotism may be successfully appealed to, but to infer their assent from circumstances at war with such inference, I cannot but regard as calculated to excite a feeling of fatal enmity with the peace and harmony of the country. I must, therefore, regard this clause as asserting the power to be in Congress to establish offices of discount in a State, not only without its assent, but against its dissent; and so regarding it, I cannot sanction it. On general principles, the power and control, deprives the transaction of all pretence to compact between them, and terminates as we have seen, in the total abrogation of freedom of action on the part of the States.

But further; the State may express after the most solemn form of legislation, its dissent, which may from time to time thereafter be repeated, in full view of its own interest, which can never be separated from the peace and beneficent operation of this Government; and yet Congress may by virtue of the last proviso, overrule its law, and upon grounds which, to such State, will appear to rest on a constructive necessity and propriety, and nothing more.

I regard the bill as asserting for Congress the right to incorporate a United States Bank, with power and right to establish offices of discount and deposit in the several States of this Union, with or without their consent, a principle to which I have always heretofore been opposed, and which can never obtain my sanction, and waiving all other considerations growing out of its other provisions, I return it to the House in which it originated, with these my objections to its approval.

JOHN FYLER.

WASHINGTON, August 16, 1841.

WORKINGMEN'S COUNTY CONVENTION.

At a county convention of the Workingmen of Huntingdon county, held in the borough of Alexandria, on Friday, 27th August, 1841.

On motion, It was unanimously agreed that John Bumbaugh be appointed Chairman, and Thomas M. Cadwallader Secretary of said Convention.

Upon calling over the several townships and boroughs, the persons appointed were admitted delegates.

Whereupon the following ticket was duly elected, and with confidence submitted for the support of the workingmen of Huntingdon county.

Assembly.
Jesse Moore, Franklin township.
Thomas Weston, Snyder township.
Sheriff.
John Shafer, Shirley township.
Commissioner,
James Davis, West township.
Auditor.
Jacob S. Watson, Franklin township.

Treasurer.
John Simpson, Huntingdon.

Resolved, That all classes of citizens are entitled to a representation of the offices of our county, according to the ratio of their number; and we as workingmen, will use all honorable means to have such representations by selecting from our number such as are worthy, and bringing them before the people at our elections.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the President and Secretary, and be published in all the papers printed in this county, or by all the editors that are willing to do so.

JOHN BUMBAUGH, PRES'T.
THOS. M. CADWALLADER, Sec'y.

ADDRESS

Of the Committee appointed by the Workingmen's Convention at Alexandria, August 27, 1841.

Friends, Fellow Citizens, Workingmen:

You are now called upon to come forward for the noblest purpose to which you, as American citizens, can be called, which is the defence of your just rights by claiming your right of representation in the halls of legislation, and in the managing of our county matters, by supporting the Workingmen's Ticket, which has been formed this day from the citizens of the several townships, who possess the confidence of their neighbors, and who have been nominated without their own interference or the influence and management of designing politicians, and are men in good repute among their neighbors for honesty, sobriety, and attention to their own business. It would be expecting what has never happened, that an indolent man who neglects his own business would be a proper person to attend to the business of others, and attend to it faithfully. We think it is evident to every person who wishes the good of his country and who has thought deliberately upon the subject, that it is high time to break through the shackles of party, and only support such men for office as those whose station in life justifies entire confidence in them; whose characters are without reproach and are esteemed by all that know them for industry and honesty, who have proved faithful to trusts confided to them, and who are capable of filling the offices for which they are recommended. We have selected men from among ourselves to represent us; for if the workingmen cannot attend to the interest of the workingmen, no other will, and we can confide in no other.

In regard to a Governor we can at present do nothing, but submit to the two organized parties. We say let every man support such of the men that are at present candidates for that office as he may think proper, and be prudent in his expressions, so as not to offend or excite ill feeling in a brother workingman, who may think fit to support a different man. But should we succeed in carrying out the original design, and the workingmen see that the only object is that of bringing forward and sustaining his interests, the slights or insinuations of those opposed to it will no longer regarded; they will come forward in defence of their rights—other counties will become awakened upon the subject, and by the next gubernatorial election we may support a workingman for Governor with some chance of success.

It may be asked, what object the workingmen have in coming out in opposition to others? We will endeavor to give a few of the reasons as briefly as possible: Firstly, The leaders of both parties have acted hypocritically towards the workingmen, by professing to be his friends when they wanted his support; but as soon as they have obtained power, the object seems to have been to see which could plunder him the most. Secondly, things have become so arranged under the leaders of the different parties, that it is hardly possible for an industrious, high minded man to be nominated for an office of any importance, unless it is by the party, (which ever it happens to be,) which is so much in the minority that there can be but little chance of his election. It can be nothing new to tell you that before a workingman can obtain a nomination from either party in power, it is necessary to neglect his own business, get his hands brought down to certain softness, study

etiquette, attend to the leaders, part with his independent principles, and become almost bankrupt from neglect of his own business and fashionable living. He would then, if he possessed any qualifications that would be useful to them, or would work kindly in the off-side of any of the leaders they could hitch him up with, begin to be spoken of as a suitable man for office, knowing that he would then submit to have the collar of party fastened around his neck and do the bidding of the leaders. But still, a professional man would be preferred, as a great part of his business education has been to consider the producing classes as common stock, to be used as it may suit the interests of what they call the higher order—in this way only are their interests considered identified. Most offices are connected with comparatively little labor and a sufficient salary to make them desirable to professional men. By such men having the control and management of our government, (and such have had it from the beginning) has originated high salaries, or in addition to what would be a fair salary, donations, perquisites, clerk-hire, office rent, incidental expenses—every thing that can be thought of or managed, has been done, and will still continue to be done, and to a greater extent, if we continue to support the present parties. Demagoguism, prostitution of office to make all public measures bend to the individual interest of the office holder and his satellites, have been greatly increased these last ten years. Each party professes to be better than the one opposing it. Both parties have been in power—both profess to have done their best, and why have the above abuses not been corrected? Alas! all who confide in such promises of reform as these parties make, must have been, and must continue to be most woefully disappointed; for every change, instead of reforming, has only augmented the abuses. Offices have been dealt out to idling politicians, who have neither principal nor interest only in abusing the office so as to get the most money for the least services. It is hardly probable or possible that any change for the better can be made as long as non-producers are allowed to represent workingmen or producers; and as long as offices are made the main object and end of politics, instead of making those who hold them agents, and the offices merely the means of benefiting not the officer, but those for whom he acts.

A non-producer cannot have the same idea of what is a sufficient compensation for services as has a workingman. A lawyer will charge \$5 for an advice and a little business that will occupy from half an hour to two hours, and will of course look upon \$5 as the representative of a couple of hours of his time; whereas the workingman esteems \$5 as a representative of from 5 to 10 days, and often half a month's hard labor. Now can these different classes of men have the same idea of economy? No, it is a thing impossible, and from the apathy of the people, and the success the leaders have had in plundering, they have placed at the head of the political creed of both parties the most damnable doctrine that has ever been promulgated by man against his fellow man, which is that "the spoils belong to the victors." Now, the enquiry arises, who are the victors? which is easily and truly answered, by saying, the fortunate office hunters, who have succeeded in obtaining an election. And then, who is to be spoiled or plundered? why, the people—the workingmen—the producing class; for from no other can it be taken, and offices are created for the exclusive benefit of the officer without any regard to the people. Now we would ask, are we for ever going to hold still, and be plundered? We may be certain that so long as we remain divided, some of us belonging to one of the parties that be, and some to the other, it must remain so and continue to get worse; for the wire-workers of both parties are of the non-producing class, or those not having their interests identified with ours, and of course have no interest in redressing our grievances. Some say, let us wait a while longer; may be they will do better. But we think that we have waited much too long already; that we have a State debt now of upwards of thirty millions, and it is yearly increasing from two to three millions, which will most certainly have to be paid, if not by us, by our children; that the lands are bound for it, and the means to pay will have to be produced by the hand of labor. The people were told, while they were making our canals and railroads, that the profits of them would in time pay for their construction; and we believe, if they were rightly managed, they would nearly pay the interest on the cost. But how is it now? who the officers having charge of them, and who had it when the other party was in power? Are they not, with but few exceptions, the idle, the brawling politicians that hurrahed at taverns and public gatherings, and did the dirty work at elections, influencing men to vote contrary to their will, and thereby bringing the right of suffrage into discredit? The number of officers and their salaries are yearly increased, as spoils which they were of right entitled to, because they had happened to obtain the power. And what has been the course pursued by the members of our Legislature? Are they not bound to support all measures brought forward by the leaders of the party they belong to, and to oppose all that are brought forward by the opposite party, without regard to the utility or principles that are contained in either? Now, we would ask, is it not high time to break through all party distinctions, and elect men who will support

all that is just and right, and oppose all that they consider wrong, and have a proper regard to the oath they take as Legislators? If all, then, are satisfied to support the principles we advocate, and believe as we do, that we must think as well as work.—Come forward manfully and support the Workingman's ticket, and disregard the slights, insinuations, or humbuggery of the other parties.

ROBERT LYTLE, Jr.
THOS. BURCHINELL,
DANIEL HEWITT,
JOHN S. ISETT,
JAMES TERRY.

Committee

The Best Story Ever Told.

A correspondent has sent us the following capital story, over which we have laughed until our sides ache.—N. O. Pic.

" * * * * * We had a pleasant trip from New Orleans to Cincinnati, and had scarcely landed at the latter place when the bell of a little steamer, for "up the river," sounded. Our party hurried on board and found the diminutive craft already crowded; but, as we never expect very good accommodations on that part of the river, and no other opportunity offered for leaving soon, we concluded to remain. Upon looking around to see what chance there was for amusement on our trip from my fellow passengers, I was particularly struck with the appearance of an elderly lady, who seemed very ill at ease. Every time steam was allowed to escape from the boiler she appeared to fancy it the prelude to a grand explosion, and was evidently in a state of continual excitement. As she is to be my heroine, I may as well attempt to describe her, although I shall hardly do her full justice. She was one of the tallest women I ever saw, but the effect of her height was taken away by her immense breadth. She was one of McDonald Clarke's style of beauties—"with a waist like a cotton bag and a foot like a flounder." Never did I see such a moving mass of flesh encircled by a petticoat. Oh! she was very fat.—Upon inquiry I learned that she had been a passenger on the steamboat F—, at the time it was burned a few years before, and narrowly escaped with her life. Only a few weeks had elapsed since the catastrophe of the Ben. Sherrod, by which some scores of hapless mortals were hurried into eternity through the combined agency of fire and water. What wonder that the woman was alarmed at the prospect of a steamboat voyage!

After we left the landing, the principal topic of conversation among the passengers was the numerous accidents which had lately happened. Nearly every person was equipped with a life preserver, and some were so cautious as to hang them up in their berths, filled with air and ready for use at a moment's warning. Night came, and all were snugly ensconced in their berths, when there arose the cry of fire! The wood on the bow of the boat had caught fire, and was blazing fiercely up, shining through the glass doors of the social hall and the cabin windows until the whole boat seemed enveloped in a sheet of flame. In an instant all was confusion and alarm. Passengers tumbled out of their berths, and over one another; some grasped their preservers—some ran for their baggage—some for their wives—the wise ones kept quiet. In the midst of the hubbub, the doors of the ladies' cabin flew wide open, and out burst our fat lady, dressed all in white, her face "a map whereon terror was drawn in all its shapes" and around her waist a huge life preserver not inflated. Seizing this by the nipple with both hands, she rushed from one to another exclaiming, in a voice of agony, "blow me up! blow me up! for God's sake blow me up! will nobody blow me up!?" Had the old lady actually exploded, I must have done as I did, roll on the floor in a fit of inextinguishable laughter, with half the witnesses of the scene for my companions. The boat was stopped, the fire got under, and, not the least difficult operation, the fat lady's alarm subdued. The next day we landed her at her place of destination, since which time I have never seen her, but the recollection of the scene has cost me many a fit of the side ache. Yours, truly, N. S.

From the United States Gazette.
WASHINGTON NEWS.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.
IN THE SENATE.

There was another paper presented like unto those which have emanated from Virginia of late, anti-Bank, anti-Tariff, anti-Bankrupt, anti-Distribution—in short anti-every thing that is calculated to bring peace and prosperity to the country. This document emanated from the town of Petersburg, and was presented by Mr. Calhoun. It recommends to President Tyler to veto the Land Bill, should it pass. Such, however, are not the doctrines of the State, but of cliques in Virginia, disposed to lend themselves to the destruction of Whig principles. Had the Whigs condemned all these measures, the opposition would then have been in their favor. There is no opposition on the score of principle, but of men.

We had the resolution up for the adjournment of Congress on the 30th inst, but it was voted down—19 ayes, 22 nays. The session will doubtless be protracted until the 1st October.

The very able Select Committee appointed by the Chair to represent the Bank Bill, was pretty severely animadverted on by the opposition, who claimed that they had not been represented in a measure where all were equally interested.

Mr. King desired that two members might be added from the minority to fill up the committee, but the motion, after some debate, was withdrawn.

Mr. Benton told them that when his party was in power, it gave the committees majorities of their political friends, but then it allowed the majority to be fairly represented. In the course of his remarks, Mr. B. said that he had heard that Nicholas Biddle was restored to his power, and that Mr. Jaudon had assisted in drawing up the bill which President Tyler had killed.

THE LAND BILL.

The question on the passage of this bill will be taken to-morrow, which will rejoice the hearts of the States. Messrs. Woodbury, Wright, Walker, and Sevier opposed the general principles of the bill with great zeal. In short, "Tray, Blanche, and Sweetheart" all barked at it, but they could not hurt it.

Rumor still speaks of the resignation of Mr. Granger; but if the Cabinet goes out, it will go en masse not by detached fragments.

Aug. 26, 1841.

THE LAND BILL PASSED.

It seems by the proceedings of the Senate of the United States, that the Land Bill has passed that body. We regard this as the bill of the session, the important measure upon which the most of public expectation depended. Of the feelings of the Loco-foco's, at whose head is Benton, one may judge by the ruffianly language of that Senator, when, commencing a noise against the bill, he declared that the Senators of Virginia had committed a fraud. Mr. Archer seemed willing that blackguardism should have its swing, but Mr. Clay called the Senator to order, as insulting the body in which he stood. Of this bill and its passage, the National Intelligencer thus speaks:

"We are enabled, to our great delight, to continue the announcement of glad tidings to the people. The Land Distribution and General Pre-emption Bill yesterday passed the Senate, by 28 votes to 22. It had, as the reader knows, previously passed the House of Representatives; but having been amended in the Senate, (by a provision to suspend its operation when duties are laid on importations beyond 20 per cent on their value,) it has yet to go back to the House for its action upon that amendment.

Respecting the passage of the Land Bill, we have but one regret, and that is, that Mrs. Preston could not, in view of the opinion of his own state on the subject, vote in favor of it. We regret it, because his vote would have added so much weight to the preponderance in its favor. Every other Whig voted in favor of the bill, which is therefore emphatically a Whig measure.

After Mr. Benton had ended his speech, (which he did, by the way, with a solemn appeal to President Tyler to veto the bill) Mr. Smith, of Indiana, Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, who has indefatigably watched and cared for the bill, during its whole progress, waived his right of reply, from his anxious and laudable desire to terminate the debate, and come to a final vote upon the bill.

Thus the debate was happily closed.

From the New York Sun—Extra.
APPALLING CALAMITY AT SYRACUSE, N. Y.

New York, August 22.
We learn from Mr. Sloat, formerly a resident of this city, the following particulars of one of the most afflicting occurrences it has been our lot to record. At about 10 o'clock, Friday night, a fire broke out in a carpenter's shop on the west side of the Oswego canal, at a distance of perhaps one hundred yards from its junction with the Erie. From the combustible nature of the materials, the fire extended rapidly and attracted a large concourse of citizens and strangers, &c., and the fire department was promptly on the spot, and proceeded with their usual alacrity and daring to extinguish it. A barrel of gun powder, which, unknown to any one, unless it were the proprietor, had been recently stored upon the premises, ignited and exploded with terrible effect.

Not less than thirty persons were instantly killed, and from forty to fifty wounded, many of them so badly as to leave no hope of their recovery. The extent of the calamity is by no means yet known, as some persons were known to have been thrown into the canal, and numbers were missing. When the cars left Syracuse, on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, the citizens were engaged in letting the water out of the Oswego canal, in order to recover the bodies of those who had been thrown into it.

A railroad car was despatched to Auburn for medical aid, as it was impossible for the physicians of Syracuse to attend to all the sufferers.

The powder which exploded and caused this dreadful destruction was placed on the ground floor of the burning building and consisted of ten or fifteen kegs. The fire was believed to be the work of an incendiary. The whole village has been thrown into mourning and distress by this afflicting event. Funeral services were held at the several churches on Sunday. During the progress of the fire the alarm was given that the building contained powder—hundreds of those who heard the cry sought safety in flight, and found it—others who did not hear, or considered the danger less than it was, remained. The explosion of the powder, awful and terrific as an earthquake, followed, and, in an instant, numbers were sent into eternity.