From the Newark Daily Advertiser.

Letter From Gen. Scott.

The following circular letter from Major Gen Scott has been handed to us for publication. It has been drawn from him, we understand, by numerous letters from various parts of the Union, including applications from the citizens of New Jersey, asking his opinion concerning the politics of the day.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 1841.

Gentlemen:—I have lately had the honor to receive many letters from as many different States, each propounding, on the part of the writer and his neighbor, nearly the same political interrogatories—to which answers are requested.

The scope of the inquiries is a flattering proof of the interest that some of my countrymen take in the opinions that I have formed on certain great principles of abiding importance to the success of our system of government; and as I have nothing to conceal, if nothing of value to communicate, I shall, at once, without political reserve, and in the form of a circular, comply with their several requests.

Party Politics.—Although from early manhood, I have, by the profession of arms, in the defence of our country, been thrown out of the arena of party politics, yet I have never ceased to be an attentive observer of public events, and thus, I believe, there has scarcely been a discussion of moment in Congress, within my time, on which I did not form, and modistly but firmly, express a passing opinion.

A mere youth, I felt the liveliest joy when the alien and sedition laws expired in the triumph of Mr. Jefferson. From 1806, I was old enough, by speech and pen, to call for a prompt and energetic redress of our wrongs suffered from Great Britain, under her orders in Council, the attack on the Chesapeake frigate, and long continued impressment of our seamen; and when the war of 1812 at length came, I was among the first and longest in the presence of the foe. The insults received from the French Directory—their depradations on our commerce, renewed under Napoleon's decrees, (Berlin and Milan) which followed the British Orders in Council, also largely shared in my indignant reprobation.

The Administrations of Mr. Madison and Mr Monroe like that of Mr Jefferson, had in their respective periods, my humble, but hearty approbrtion; and I have ever since censured nothing in either but the sale of a part; and the dismantling of our Navy; the gun-boat system of defence that followed, and the indefinite embargo which, crippling us for war, by destroying our commerce and finances, and oppressing agriculture, wars long continued without redressing one outrage from abroad.

I give this little sketch of the growth of my party feelings or opinions—unimportant, perhaps, except to myself and a few partial friends, to show that, if I have never been a Federalist, in any party sense of the term, so neither have I been a Jacobin, an *impracticable*, or abstractionist, in any sense whatever, but always an old fashioned republican, devoted to the support of law and order; a democratic Whig just as all my family had been Whigs in the great struggle for national freedom and independence.

The Judiciary.—From an early and long continued study of elementary law, my mind has ever been imbued with deep reverence for the Bench—State and Federal; an independent department in our system of government, and which, holding neither the Purse to corrupt, nor the Sword to terrify, addresses itself only with the mild force of persuasive reason, to the intelligence and virtue of the whole community. By the Federal Constitution, every safeguard is provided to shield its Judiciary against fleeting prejudice, political rancor, and party dependence, to which legislators and the Executive are unavoidably, directly and constantly exposed. Hence, "to the one Supreme Court" is widely extended (by "appellate jurisdiction") "all cases in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States and territories made, or which shall be made under their authority."

Looking to this express provision, I have always held that when a doubtful question, arising under the Constitution itself, the supreme law of the land; under an act of Congress or a treaty, has once been solemnly adjudicated by that Court, the principle of the decision ought to be taken, by all, as definitively settled; unless, indeed, it be upon a re-hearing before the same tribunal. This appears to me too clear for disputation; for the court is not only declared to be supreme, and hence can be no bench beyond it; but to Congress is only given the power to constitute inferior tribunals. By appeals to the Supreme Court, a settlement was intended to be reached, and anarchy, thro' a long distraction of the public mind, on great questions of legislative and executive power, thus rendered impossible. Practically, therefore, for the people, and especially their functionaries, to deny, disturb or impugn principles thus constitutionally established, strikes me as of evil example, if not of a direct revolutionary tendency, except indeed, in the case of a judicial decision enlarging power and against liberty; and any dangerous error of this sort can be always easily corrected, (and should only be corrected) by an amendment of the Constitution, in one of the modes prescribe by that instrument itself the organic law of the States and the people. Misconstructions of the law, other than the Constitution, are yet more readily corrected by amendatory or declaratory acts of Congress.

The Executive Veto.—This by the framers of the Constitution, could only have been designed—1, To enable the President to defend his own rightful powers against usurpations on the part of Congress, 2, To enable him to forbid other legislative infractions of the Constitution; and 3. To guard the country against other acts of hasty or violent legislation.

It is hardly possible to conceive a case under the first or second of these heads, against which the Judiciary—the balance wheel of the system—does not afford, of itself, all the security that the people can require.

But without the protection of either the Bench or the Veto, would the executive department (become so super-judicial of late years) be too weak to fulfil the strictly executive functions for which it was more particularly created? Or rather, would not that department be the most powerful for evil in the government?

The President is under the checks of the constitution and law, rightfully invested with the powers of the Sword, and he has again and again had that of the Purse also. The Houses of Congress, it is true, lay taxes, for imports and regulate the sales of the public domain, but it is he (thro' his agents) handles the proceeds. From 1833 to 1836, to say nothing of the present, he alone nominated and dismissed all the agents who *kept* as well as those who collected, distributed and disbursed the public revenue. The apothegm—*make us your executor; we care not who are your legislators;* has a frightful application to such small agents and the immense treasure that anually passes through their hands!

The rapid increase and spread of population; the growth of national wealth, the amount of revenue collected and disbursed; the new relations, by the extension of commerce, with foreign countries; the additional appointments at home and abroad; the number and value of contracts—all constantly and necessarily on the increase; a general decay in morals, perhaps as great in Congress as elsewhere; the habit that we have seen prevail during several Presidential terms—of filling public offices with but little or no regard to moral standing—have, taken together, already opened to the head of the government elements of power and corruption which it was impossible for the framers and adopters of the constitution to fore see or to conceive. Who, at that dis tant day, for example, ever dreamed of the spectacle which have recently disgusted every honest citizen, of post masters, mail contractors. mail agents, and census takers covering the land with pamphlets, handbill, and extra gazettes, sufficient, if read, to sap the morals, public and private, of an entire government? of the cus tom house mercenaries in the large cities, living on the public, neglecting every duty for party meetings and the polls, and rendering to power the most bribe worthy services. Of district attorneys and collectors, rambling missionaries, defending every abuse of office—their own the most indecent—in order to maintain power in the hands of their patron? All who have reflected on the foregoing facts must be ready to affirm—that *Executive patronage* has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.

I hope then, by an early amendment of the constitution, to see a reduction of the President's veto. The regulation of patronage would properly follow.

There can be no good reason why the veto should not be overcome by a bare majority in each house of Congress, of all the members elerted to it—say for the benefit of reflection, at the end of ten days from the return of the bill. An amendment to this effect would still leave the President—the general representative of every State and district, armed with the votes of all the members, absent at the moment, from the respective Houses, and there will always be some members absent from both.

Rotation in Office.—The inquiry under this head, is not definite in any letter before me. It is however, presumed to refer—1. To governors and secretaries of territories and some of the governors there in; district attorneys; collectors, surveyors, and naval officers of the customs, marshals, postmasters, whose commissions amount to a $1000 per annum; navy agents registers, registers and receivers of land offices, surveyors general of land, and Indian agents—all of whom are by law, appointed for a term of four years; but subject by express enactment (except the judges) to be removed at pleasure; 2. To a high class of civil officers, next to the chiefs, in the executive departments at Washington; other high functionaries—foreign ministers, secretaries of legation and consuls; post masters, whose commissions amount to less than a thousand dollars per annum; superintendent of Indian affairs, Indian sub-agents, &c. &c.—all appointed without limitation as to term yet subject in practice, not by express law, to be also removed at pleasure; and 3. To the assistants allowed by law to very many of the principles included above, which assistants are generally called clerks, some of them, deputies, appraisers, weighers, gaugers, sub-inspectors, store keepers, light house keepers, &c. &c., all appointed and subject to removal, as under the second head.

I am asked, whether, in my poor opinion, all these functionaries, amounting to many thousands, or any of them, ought to be periodically superseded by original appointments? If yes—*When?* And if a part only—*Which?*

We have seen that a great number of offices are filled for a term of years, and more without any limiation as to term. I, however, can draw no line of just distinction between the claims of the two classes upon the favor of country or government.

Premising, that regular periodical changes in the subordinate servants of the coun try merely for the sake of change, would necessarily swell executive patronage, already too much swollen—I am obliged to add that I more than doubt, on other grounds, the policy and justice of such changes. 1. Because, for the able and prompt execution of public business, much official experience, in a great number of particular stations, is known to be necessary; 2. Because many office holders, appointed under even reckless administrations, such as we have seen, will always, after a time, be found of tried integrity and of equal industry and abilities: 3. Because, again, some may be found in a state of honorable poverty, the result no less of stern integrity, than of a long and exclusive devotion to the interests of the public, and 4. Because to remove such servants, or not to re-appoint them, at the end of a term would not only discourage successors in a faithful discharge of duty but could not fail to outrage the meral sense of entire communities. I speak on this head, from what I witnessed in 1829 —30, of the cruel experiment, on a large scale, then made upon the sensibilities of the country, and the mischiefs to the public interests which early ensued.

What I would, therefore, humbly advise, is this: To turn out, not only on a change of President, but in any and every week of the year, all office holders known to be deficient in either honest capacity, or industry, and to appoint in their stead, men known to possess those qualities. Without an anxious attention to this rule, a government of the people, resting on virtue and intelligence, cannot long be successfully maintained, for a blind or vicious distribution of enormous patronage would soon, by the force of the highest example, beat down all that is tought in the church, the schoolhouse and the college.

One Presidential Term.—Of the eight chief magistrates that preceded General Harrison, whom a nation yet mourns, the first, third, fourth, fifth, and seventh, presided over the Union, respectively, two successive terms; the other three, but four years each; and every one of the eight, *whilst in office,* became a candidate for a second term.

I consider the sublime examples. set by *the father of his country,* in declining a third election, which has been duly followed by four popular Presidents, and would no doubt have been observed with equal good faith by the other three, under like circumstances—as establishing a barrier against a third term, as impassable as if it were embodied in the constitution itself. But I do not consider it respectful to the people, nor otherwise proper in a candidate, to solicit a favor on a *pledge,* that if elected, he will not accept a second nomination. It looks too much like a bargain tendered to other aspirants; *yield to me now, I shall soon be out of your way;* too much like the interest that sometimes govern the Cardinal in the choice of a Pope—many voting for themselves first, and, if without success, finally for the most superannuated in oder that the election may the sooner come around again. I am, however, in favor of an amendment of the constitution, in one of the forms prescribed—declaring that no citizen shall be eligible to a re-election to the Presidency, and also of an extension of the term of a senator—a period of six years.

Agency of the President in Legislation. I am persuaded that this should be strictly limited, 1. To the veto, qualified as suggested above; 2. To the command of the constitution, "he shall from time to time, give to Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," and 3. To furnishing, through the appropriate executive departments, such details for Bills as any committee of either House of Congress may specially call for.

Leading Measure of the late extra session of Congress. If I had had the honor of a vote on the occasion, it would have been given in favor of the land distribution Bill, the bankrupt bill, and the second Bill for creating a fiscal corporation, having long been under a conviction that in peace, as in war something efficient, in the nature of a bank of the United States, is not only 'necessary and proper,' but indispensable to the successful operations of the Treasury, as well as to many of the wants of our commerce and currency.

Secret oath-bound Societies.—I have not been a member of a masonic lodge in thirty odd years, nor a visiter of any lodge since, except once—now more than sixteen years ago. There are, at many Academies and Colleges, as is well known, associations of students, tutors, and professors for purely literary purposes, and their meetings, generally, for aught that I know, may be secret. Twenty eight years ago I was once present with such an association, and never since; and I have within five years, received many flattering notices of my having been enrolled as an honorary member of as many such associations. I am sorry to be reminded that, by some strange neglect, I have failed to accept one of these honorable distinctions.

Finally, I am asked—*If nominated as a candidate for the Presidency, would you accept the nomination?* I beg leave respectfully to reply—*yes;* provided, that I be not required to renounce any principle professed above. My principles are convictions.

Hoping that you who have done me the honor to invite this general reply, may with the millions, be enabled in a year or two to fix on some other citizen as your candidate more worthy, and therefore, more likely to conciliate the majority of popular suffrages.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your friend and fellow citizen,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

From the New York Express.

WASHINGTON, 15th Nov. 1841.

To the Editors of the New York Express, the same paper my old friend Mr. Dwight printed a spell ago.

MR. EDITORS:—

I tell'd you in my last letter that Capting Tyler had gone to Virginny—and that whilst he was gone, I was to put all the Bank plans into my *fanning mill* and blow the *chaff* off the *clear corn.* Well, this has been no fool of a job I can tell you, for out of more than a two bushel basket of *plans,* there aint more than a good double handfull of solid clear corn left.

Captain Tyler has now got back from Virginny, and when I showed him my *siftings*—"well" says he "Major your mill has made a small matter on't any how—but there is enuf left for seed!"

"Jest exactly," says I, "and if we can't raise enuf from this small parcel for all our purposes then I'm mistaken." "Now Major," says Capting Tyler, "I should like to know your notions about this matter, for we have got all other things in a good train except this plagy money matter—if we can only get that going right then we can say to all creation—*all* the fields are planted and if Providence smiles on us—we shall have good crops." "That is a fact," says I, "and if you'll listen I'll tell you a story in as short order as I can." The Capting took his seat and pinted his nose right at me, and there is one thing I have particularly noticed in the Capting, which is not the case with most folks—and that is, whichever way his *nose* pints it is a sartin sign that he *looks* that way, so there is no mistake about it.

"Well, in the first place, we settled the business about the origin of *money*—how and why it was invented—first iron money, next brass and copper money—next silver money, and how in the process of time and digging and mining, iron money, got out of fashion next brass and copper money, and now in England, even silver money, as a "legal tender;" but upon the whole as yet, that silver and gold are at the present day *money,*—but there is no telling how soon, by science and digging that even one or both these metals may not be found so abundant as to make them too common for constitutional money, or what folks call *measures of value*—just as iron, or brass, or copper have become. Well, that being settled, we next examined into paper money, how that was invented—being a *representative* of money—that is, a kind of money—that not only represents gold and silver, but houses and farms, and wheat, and pork, and beef, and ships and merchandise, and every thing else in creation, called *property.*

"Now," says I, Capting Tyler, keep your nose to this pint (for as I said afore, the Capting's nose carries both his eyes and ears along with it, and the Capting's nose is an *almighty* nose, and the Duke of Wellington's is but a *pug* to it,) "now," says I, "ever since paper money was invented by the great *democratic party* of creation, who insisted that industry and property was as good, and should be represented as well, as mere gold and silver —they begun a *new* war between money on one side, and property and industry on the other—that is, money wanted to get hold of as much property, and industry as possible, and property and industry wanted to get hold of as much money as possible—each of course trying to depreciate the other."

"In this state of things," says I, "what was and is the true duty of Government, whose duty it is to protect alike the owners of money and the owners of property and industry— (property and industry being one and the same thing, for industry cretes property."

Here we broke off, as it was getting late, and went to sleep upon it, and I would advise folks generally to do the same thing, providing they *think* well over the matter, and understand it well before reading further.

Well the next day we turned to agin and went over the whole matter. As history and facts tell us how at one time when all was snug and all branches of industry was working along smoothly, *Government* took a notion to let folks manage their now paper money, and broke up the old balance wheel—and then how *State Banks,* and States themselves all went to work making an extra batch of Bills and Bonds and all kinds of "promise to pay" —and all considered as money—and then of course how *high property* got—for land wheat and pork and wages and all, will must rise in price just so far as you cheapen money by making it too plenty— and then how Government got alarmed and issued *Specie Circulars,* and wouldn't take any kind of money but *hard money,* and smashed away against all banks and paper money makers, bills, bonds, notes and mortgages and brought a bushel measure right down to a quart pot—calling every man a *rascally speculator* who got caught on the wrong side of the fence.— So that a good many folks who did not keep the run of things were like a man who borrowed ice in January and agreed to pay it back in August—but government folks who held fat offices didn't feel this as much—their pay was *the same in gold*—and of course the more valuable gold became the better for them. Why, says I, Capting Tyler, if you bring all kind of property down to gold and silver, and measure it by that standard alone, and have no other kind of money, then I say, giving all the property in the Union its fair chance, you could with one year of your wages (which you have a right to take in gold) buy more *propery* than you could shake a stick at. Now is that fair and reasonable? Is it right and just that this war of *money* against *property* should go on till it gets to scalping, or shall the whole people by the *Government* put a step to it, and so adjust matters that "property owners" and "money owners" shall both have a fair chance?

If a man buys a farm and pays half in cash and mortgages the balance, and Government adopts measures that changes money matters suddenly, and when pay day comes he finds what was worth a dollar is not worth ten cents in "Constitutional money," away goes his farm and he is a beggar,—and just so it is with every body except the shaver and the fat office holder. It is the duty of the Government to prevent it—and if *the Constitution* don't say so in so many words it only shows that the wise folks who made it did not think it necessary to add to what it does say—that was the object and end of the People by their Government to make themselves as happy and prosperous as they could. That is wat I call an honest and fair construction of all doubtful pints. The country, says I, is now in trouble. Some of the States can't pay their just debts because the people of those States are jam'd—there is *property* enuf and *industry* enuf all ready to make a flea-bite of the *debts,* and instead of being the scum of the world, or that part on't we own, we are able to put on the boot of the other foot just as easy as to say so. And with that I handed over to the Capting that part of the clean corn I had been fanning the chaff from, and I tell'd him it was his business to see the planting on't. I had done my work in fanning off the chaff and now they must do theirs, and if they did not know how, then to let "the People's Congress" do it—that the evil upon the country had past off from "the rascally and unpopular Banks" and got down among the "popularity" itself—and this made a new question on't, and had nothing to do with *Vetos* as it once had—for it had teach'd a pint that a *Veto* could not cure or remedy." And here I left the matter—and now if you want to know more about it, I refer you to Capting Tyler's next message and Mr. Forward's Treasury report, and if you don't find it there then look to Congress. And in the mean time if you want to trade safely, borrow ice in August and agree to return the same quantity in January, for every other bargain is unsartin till Government does something to settle this money question.

Your friend and fellow-cit'zen,

J. DOWNING Maj. &c. &c. &c.

Hon John Q. Adams, during a recent visit to mansfield, Mass. announced to his constituents that he should cease to represent them at the close of the present Congress.

CONVENTION OF PRODUCERS.

Notice to Working Men.

The working-men of Huntingdon County, are requested to meet in their respective township, on Saturday afternoon Dec. 4th for the purpose of appointing delegates to meet in County Convention, at Alexandria, on Friday Dec. 10th, for the purpose of expressing the Opinion of the working men, as to the measures of Reform, proper to be advocated by their Representatives, at the ensuing session of the Legislature, and to consider what measures are necessary and proper to be adopted, to effect the organization, and promote the welfare of the producing class.

We would respectfully call the attention of all persons to the necessity of attending township meetings, and have a fair expression of sentiment, as to the measures to be advocated, and be careful appointing delegates that will carry out those measures, and have them fully instructed to do so. The neglecting to attend the township meetings, by those who have no interest but the public good, and thereby permitting those who have a self-ish or party interest, that will attend them and have delegates appointed that will answer their purposes, are the principle reasons why men get into power, and measures are recommended that are not agreeable nor for the interests of a majority of the community, and must stilll continue to be so, until the primary meetings are more generally attended, for there and there only, can they express their opinions, and make arrangements to have them carried into effect—We would also call your attention to the One Term principle, the electing of the Canal Commissioners, the letting of the repairs of the public works in short sections to the lowest responsible bidder together with what may be thought proper.

ROBERT LYTLE
THOS. BURCHNELL
DANIEL HEWIT } Committee.
JOHN S· ISETT
JAMES TERRY

November 18th 1841.

GEN SCOTT'S LETTER.—In our paper of to-day will be found a somewhat lengthy letter from the pen of General Winfield Scott. Although, we have made no declarations, relative to our choice for the next Presidency, still we deem it a duty we owe to the people, to put them in possession of the principles held by such persons as may be likely to be before them as candidates, for nomination at the contest of '44.

Sectarianism in Politics.

For the first time in our recollection, has sectarianism been introduced into the political field. For the first time has the churchman entered the political arena and proclaimed himself a political gladiator, contending for specific privileges for his particular sect. And the fact, that it has been once done, should awaken, in the mind of every patriot, feelings of profound regret, and a determination to resist all such efforts ere they shall obtain power in partial success.

If our beautiful fabric shall ever fall let not its foundation be assailed ere the blood of those who fought for religious freedom shall have sunk into the ground. Yet, fall it will, if that dread day shal ever come when religious intolerance shall forge its chains for the people.— They can only retain their beauty and strength while every man, no matter of what sect, mingles with the mass of the people, and by their united action guard their rights, and the rights of others, at every avenue. Let no man stop to inquire what particular sect shall attempt to array itself at the ballot box, and contend *there* for special privileges and powers. Be it Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, every American citizen should arouse, and by their firm patriotic adherence to the principles of their fathers, drive back such fanatics, to the threshhol d of their altar. Once let that demon—religious strife for power and place—rear its head in our free country. Once let it fasten its fangs upon our institutions, and no power on earth shall force it away, until it tears out its heart, and scatters ruin and desolation over the earth and moistens her fairest fields with the blood of its sons.

When sect is arrayed against sect at the ballot box, each seek but for power to oppress, and, perhaps, burn the other at the stake. In that contest they are found fighting for power alone. Success brings, instead of light and truth, intolerance and oppression. Instead of teaching men to love one another, it encourages oppression—fills the dungeon and lights the torch. Its ministers instead of peace and good will to all men, become the conscience keepers of some, and the ministers of death to others. Instead of offering the consolations of the gospel to the unbeliever, the wheel or the faggot are their instruments of conversion, and blood and tears form the cement with which they build up their temple.

The history of the world is filled with admonitions upon this subject. It is written on the tombs of our fathers, and is heard from the graves of most of fallen nations. Americans, be not deaf to that call, awake! and guard the citadel of your strength. When sectarianism shall snatch from your hands the ballot, "farewell, a long farewell to all your greatness."

The Huntingdon Washington Temperance Society meets in the Court House on Saturday next, 27th inst.

Michigan has gone in favor of the Locos, and they have the Legislature it rumor be correct.

INFORMATION WANTED.

INFORMATION is wanted of *Marteus Keller,* who left Germany sometime last spring. He was last heard of at Rochester, N. Y. Any information respecting him would be thankfully received by his brother, George Keller, at Huntingdon, Pa.

Nov. 24, 1841.

☞ Editors in the west would aid the cause of humanity, by giving the above an insertion in their papers.