

into effectual practical operation the great principles of economy and reform,—the only true and solid basis on which those who administer the affairs of republican governments, can rest their claims to popular confidence and support.

DAVID R. PORTER.
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
5th January, 1842.

REPORT

Of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives, relative to the subject of repudiating the payment of the Public Debt.

MR. WRIGHT, from the Select Committee to whom was referred the proceedings of a meeting held in the city of Philadelphia on the 30th day of December, 1841, on the subject of repudiating the payment of the Public Debt, made report, viz:

That, from the fact that the meeting at the court house in the city of Philadelphia, was held by citizens of the State, lawfully assembled, they feel bound to treat the subject with that respect, at least, which parliamentary rules require, however they may differ in opinion with the persons who participated in its proceedings. The Constitution of the State and the inestimable Bill of Rights, our great Magna Charta, which forms a part of it, declares that "The citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the power of government for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance."

This rule being laid down by the fundamental law of the land, brings the proceedings of the meeting properly before the law-making power of the Commonwealth—and is binding upon the Legislature to at least receive the proceedings. The right of petition is inviolate. So should it be regarded. And the person who complains of a grievance has a right to be heard; and should this constitutional provision be disregarded, the Legislature would be guilty of a flagrant violation of law, as in the opinion of your committee, the persons who participated in the town meeting of Philadelphia were, of that good order and moral conduct, so essential to the perpetuation of our free government.

Granting then, that they have a right to be heard, and conceding too, that the subject of their meeting was constitutionally a "proper" one—your committee next examine its merits, if it have any, and the influences it is calculated to produce on the general welfare of the country. Its merits, are all demerits as relates to the public faith—and its influence, as its participants, it is alleged, have character for morality, integrity and patriotism, are of the worst possible tendency. But conceding that the meeting was composed of respectable citizens, a most strange and unaccountable spectacle is presented, for the first time in this Commonwealth, of an attempt to repudiate the State debt.—In other words, to say to our foreign and domestic creditors, who have from time to time, advanced funds to carry on the affairs of the government, and to construct our works of internal improvement, you shall never be paid your principal nor interest! A doctrine certainly of the most abhorrent character.

Your committee cannot but regard the measure if carried into practice, as but a torch to kindle the embers of a revolution; the commencement of a state of things as much to be deplored as though a foreign foe were upon our borders. Where did this disposition to create a want of confidence in the public faith and credit originate? Who are its advocates? What is to be accomplished by it? Is it not, in fact, a plan set afloat by the mad and reckless schemes of wild speculation in the State stocks?—Designed to weaken the public opinion in the integrity and honesty of the government, that a few unprincipled stock-jobbers might speculate upon the timidity and fears of the holders of the State loans; or is there a bolder game of agrarianism, which aims at the destruction of the monuments of industry and enterprise every where to be seen in the Commonwealth, for the purpose of wholesale plunder? If the persons participating in this meeting were influenced by good motives, they are to be pitied; if by bad ones, their course cannot be too severely condemned. What are their arguments? One of the resolutions declares, "that in the contracting of the so called State debt, the faith of the Commonwealth has been unconstitutionally and illegally pledged, and the people are under no moral, legal, or political obligation to bear any burden of taxation or make any sacrifice of personal comfort to keep it unbroken." Another, in substance, that the Constitution confers no power upon the Legislature to construct works of internal improvement, or to contract loans; and that they will resist the collection of taxes imposed by law for the payment of the State liabilities. As to the authority of the State Legislature to borrow money, or construct works of internal improvement, your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into any argument.

It will be sufficient to say, that the power of the State is sovereign and supreme in all matters not forbidden by the Constitution, or that may not conflict with the Constitution of the United States.—And in that sovereign capacity, its Legislature may contract loans, issue certificates of stock, and do any matter or thing not prohibited in express terms by the Constitution. If, then, no powers of this kind are conferred, they are certainly

not prohibited. In addition to this, the Supreme Court of this State, which is the constitutional tribunal, has put this question to rest. Would it not, then, seem conclusive, that the Legislature had absolute power over the subject? That their act was binding; and, as such, their laws should be enforced? Besides this, however, there has been a peaceful and willing acquiescence, by the citizens at large, during the time the State debt has been gradually augmenting; and the people themselves, by repeated expressions at the ballot boxes, have decided in favor of the measures of internal improvement, and instructed their representatives, in General Assembly met, to vote for appropriations of money to extend them.—The whole question has been one of public notoriety, and in which all have participated.

What an exhibition does this plan of repudiation present to the other States of the confederacy, and to the world? A sovereign and independent Government defrauding its creditors, and violating every principle of common honesty and justice! The influence of Pennsylvania on the Union is powerful. Its acts and operations vibrate from Maine to Georgia—from the Atlantic to the Lakes. Her central position, her wealth and power, give to her an importance that should caution her citizens against the adoption of pernicious measures. Spare the reflection that will be made by the universal world, that the land of our fathers has forsaken the ways and examples they set before us, and permit not our beloved Commonwealth to become the theme of reproach, a by-word!

There is no moral influence, or patriotic devotion to the country and its laws, that will appeal to the resistance of the Statute Book. And yet, the resolutions under consideration say, "that we will unitedly and determinedly resist, by all constitutional and legitimate means, the collection of the present, or any future tax, levied for the purpose of paying either the interest or principal of the so called State debt." What the authors of the resolutions call "constitutional and legitimate means," to-day, may be called open rebellion to-morrow. It is the entering wedge, and who can but believe, that if the promulgators of such doctrine, had the power in their hands to resist the collection of taxes, that it would not be instantly done? Resist taxation! Resist the operation of the law of the land! Nullify the law, and there is an end to the government. It presents the peaceable administration of civil policy and obedience on the one side, and on the other, open and violent force. Called, it is true, by the mild name of "constitutional and legitimate resistance!" Inculcate by precept and example, the violation of one law, and all others become weak, futile and inoperative. How truly so, in a country where men are educated to govern themselves. The highest duty the citizen has to perform to his country, is the strict observance of her laws. Here, public opinion is the great lever by which the conduct of men is regulated, and the science of government directed. Vitiating that, corrupt the public mind, and a state of disastrous consequences is the inevitable and certain result. All experience shows it. No one can doubt it.

The same bill of rights which declares that, "all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are, those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of preserving their own happiness," also declares that "no standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up without the consent of the Legislature," showing at a glance, that the founders of the government relied on the integrity and intelligence of the people, and that the laws would be obeyed without a resort to the coercive power adopted by despots and tyrants, where the decree of the legislator is enforced at the point of the bayonet.

It is the first instance in this government, where the sentiment has gone forth, that, "the people are under no moral, legal, or political obligation, to bear any burden of taxation, or make any sacrifice of personal comfort to keep the faith of the State unbroken." It is to be hoped it will be the last. It is, virtually, a direct appeal to rebel, to throw themselves under that same constitution, (with false notions of their rights,) which is their only safeguard, and the bulwark of the State government.

Your committee cannot conceive of a more mischievous plan of operations, than the one recommended by the meeting which adopted these resolutions. The stock of Pennsylvania is mostly held by foreigners, and for which, they have paid a valuable consideration. To pay it is a point of national honor. What would be the consequences of repudiation? Where is the enterprising trader upon the high seas who would be safe in his property or person? Either would be liable to seizure. The stars and stripes at the mast-head, which now is our mariners' guide and safeguard on every ocean, would no longer be regarded by the envious eye of the world, as the proud emblem of that people who have knowledge and virtue enough to govern themselves, but rather as the flag of a mercenary band, who having obtained by deceit and fraud and falsehood the wealth of other nations, have neither the magnanimity nor the honor to repay!

God forbid that the faith and honor and credit of this great Commonwealth should ever become the subject of reproach in the

mouths of monarchs! And Pennsylvania, too, the first in the confederacy in wealth and influence—the keystone of the federal arch—the right arm of the republic—represented in the glorious constellation of the immortal thirteen which first struck for independence, should hereafter be accused at the great bar of nations, for having broken her faith and coward-like shrunk from the payment of her just debts. How humiliating the thought! Should not the terror of the popular voice be brought to bear with such force on such doctrines, as to forever seal the lips of the mouths that uttered them?

Let the strict observance of the plighted faith of Pennsylvania be the watchword of her citizens—and let our children be taught to regard it as the best inheritance of their fathers.

Your committee recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the State stock issued by virtue of the laws of this Commonwealth is constitutionally correct, and that the citizens of the State are legally and morally bound to pay and redeem the same.

Resolved, That the faith and credit of the State does remain as heretofore unbroken, and that the property of the citizens is legitimately the subjects of taxation, for the full and entire payment of all the just demands on the Treasury thereof.

Resolved, That the doctrine of repudiation of the liabilities of this Commonwealth, is obnoxious in its tendencies and calculated to be destructive of the free principles on which the government is based, and that every good citizen is bound by all moral as well as legal considerations, to cheerfully contribute his share towards the liquidation of the State debt.

COUNTY TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

In pursuance of resolutions adopted at a Temperance Convention, held at Hollidaysburg on the 28th and 29th of October last, that it was expedient to hold a county Temperance convention in the Borough of Huntingdon, and important to organize a county Temperance Society, the undersigned having been appointed a committee to fix the time of holding such Convention and to adopt measures to effect the objects contemplated in holding it; and respectively inform the public that they have appointed the third day of February next, (at ten o'clock A. M.) for the holding of such Convention in the Borough of Huntingdon, and expect it to continue two days; it is hoped and desired that as large delegations, as possible, will attend from the different societies in favor of forming a county society, and that they will come prepared with written statements showing the commencement, progress, state, numbers and prospects of their respective societies.

All friends of temperance, every individual who is in favor of his fellow being retaining and being enabled to use the powers of body and of mind, with which he has been gifted by his Creator—every person, who wishing well his fellow man, desires to stay—to uproot the desolating vice of intemperance—the destroyer of self respect, of usefulness, of peace and happiness, of body and of soul—every one opposed to and desirous of avoiding the immense amount of loss and tax on the body politic, necessarily consequent on the habitual use of intoxicating liquors in the community—each and every individual whose conscience tells him that the habitual use of intoxicating drink as a beverage is an evil,—one and all, are respectfully requested, and solicited to attend; thereby while furthering their own true interests and discharging their duty to themselves and their Creator, giving the weight and benefit of their example and character to that moral influence which alone can relieve us from the curse of intemperance.

James M. Bell,
Thomas Burchnell,
A. H. Spang,
William West,
John Clark,
Henry Reigart,
A. Soliday,
John Crum,
Daniel M'Connell,
James D. Rea,
Committee.

Dec. 23 1841.

Stray Cattle.

CAME to the residence of the subscriber, living in Morris township, near Spang's Forge, about the 1st of October last, the following described cattle, viz:

- 1 Red and White Cow, with bell on, four years old.
- 1 Black Heifer, 3 years old,
- 3 Spotted do. 2 years old,
- 1 do. do. 1 year old,
- 1 do. Bull, do. do.

The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take them away, or they will be disposed of according to law.

CHRISTIAN LOW.

Dec. 8, 1841.

Notice

Is hereby given to those concerned, that the partnership heretofore existing between J. & J. Brewster, has been dissolved for some time past.

JOHN BREWSTER.

Jan. 5, 1842.



THE JOURNAL.

One country, one constitution one destiny

Huntingdon, Jan. 19, 1842.

We return our thanks to our friends Mathers of the Senate and Moore of the House for their kind attention in sending us public documents. The State Treasurer's Report was not, however, complete,—we only received the half of it.

Penna. Legislature.

In the Senate on Saturday 8th inst., but little was done, except balloting several times for a printer of Bills; and discussing of Repudiating Resolutions. In the House, a discussion was had as to the propriety of closing the Hall on the Sabbath, because the House was filled with boys and idlers. (Had they not better keep it closed on week days for the same reason)—A Bill was introduced to repeal the 11th Section of the act for the election of county Treasurers.

In the Senate on Monday the committee on the subject of repudiating resolutions, was read and adopted unanimously, and was strongly against the sentiments of the repudiators. John Shaeffer of centre county. B. Mattock and Samuel P. Lilly were nominated as associate Judges in their several counties. A resolution was offered providing for the sale of the Columbia Rail Road, and the Delaware Canal. It was so amended that the Internal Improvement committee are to enquire into the expediency of selling the public works. G. A. Sage, was elected printer of the Bills. In the House the report on the repudiating resolutions was read and adopted unanimously (see another column) Mr. Stevens reported a bill regulating tavern licences in Adams county.

In the Senate on Tuesday, considerable discussion was had on the condition of the Pennsylvania Bank Stocks. Directors for the different institutions were nominated. In the House a resolution was offered in favor of altering the constitution, so that the Gov. can hold his office but one Term. The Bill for the payment of the loan of last session, and for the resumption of specie payments—and for the sale of the Bank Stock, or issue of certificates of loan passed by committee of the whole. It will come up on second reading on Wednesday, 19th inst. Some talking was had on one of Porters vetoes—that relative to the \$2000 fees.

In the Senate on Wednesday a resolution was passed enjoining upon Congress to pass immediately the apportionment bill. In the afternoon they agreed to attend the Temperance convention. In the House, there was but little of account done, most of their time being employed in preliminary matters.

In the House on Thursday, they had a considerable argument on the subject of attending the Temperance convention. Mr. McCahan, rejoiced at the success of the cause and hoped it would never be used for political purposes. Mr. Stevens thought that men, as well as those out of office needed the influence of Temperance and he wanted the members to go in a body and shew their opposition to that which destroyed health, wasted the substance & blasted the reputations of thousands. The resolution was carried 75 yeas 21 nays. A resolution was offered, directing the judiciary committee to enquire into the expediency of abolishing imprisonment for debt—after some debate it passed.

In the Senate on Friday a long debate was had on resolution to set apart, Pennsylvania's part of the proceeds of the public lands as a sinking fund toward the payment of the state debt. Before the question was taken, the Senate went to the Hall of the House to open and examine election returns.—In the House little was done. On Monday Jacob Man of Bedford was elected State Treasurer on joint ballot in opposition to the candidate of the barn burners, Anderson of Perry county.

Congress.

Our solons at Washington, are still disputing about the Exchequer Bill; but no definite action is had thereon. The general impression now seems to be that the bill, nor any thing of the kind will pass. We imagine that the session will be spent as usual in a war of words; and a little

duelling and preparing for another Presidential contest. At least such is our impression. Judging from the past, congress will do nothing which is calculated in any respect to better the present wretched condition of our currency. Political chicanery has usurped the place of patriotism. Instead of struggling to support the public weal, the greater part contend for private aggrandizement or power. We are often asked what is congress doing? We answer nothing! Nothing but a continual struggle for, and against party plans and party measures. If one party suggest any thing of course the other oppose it and vice versa; and at the end of the session each one goes home content with what he has received from the public Treasury.

It is said, that Buchanan had signified his willingness to go for Tylers fiscal notions, provided Tyler would veto the Bill, or Bills of the last session. The sequel proves that federal Jimmy, has left the President sticking in the mire, and has in a very definite manner declared himself opposed to the Exchequer bill. That's just what Tyler might have expected, if he had borne in mind his course to his old federal friends.

Porter's Libellers.

The "Standard" had supposed, that after the triumphant re-election of Porter, every body would be bound to concede, at once, to him, a purity of morality possessed only by angels of a brighter world. It copies then, some remarks made by the Lewistown Republican, and of course, endorses it.

We have but little to say on the subject; our opinions and the opinions of the people of this county have been long proclaimed; and, for any of the residents of this county, where the court records are the monuments of his shame, it is a little strange. For such to talk of the moral character of David R. Porter, and to talk of his libellers, is a little too much. His moral character, indeed! His immoral character would be far better.

It is not many months since we called on some of the partisans of the "Standard" to answer us a few questions on that subject. Will the "Standard" now enter the arena, and take up the weapons of defence for Mr. Porter? Now, after you pretend that public opinion has twice proclaimed him innocent—dare you do it?

When you allude to the falsehoods about Mr. Porter we cannot understand the allusion, unless you intend to say, that he is not a fraudulent insolvent, and a violator of the insolvent's oath—that it is a falsehood to say that he plead the Statute of Limitations on some of his old debts since he has been reputed worth \$50,000. We cannot, we say, understand what they mean. Will the Standard have the goodness to tell us, whether they consider it slander to tell the truth about Porter (?) and whether it is not true, that he did take the benefit and hide his property? and whether he did not, since, refuse to pay debts contracted previous to his insolvency? and whether the plea of the Statute of Limitations is not recorded on our court Docket on one of those old debts? Do answer us, we are anxious to know what kind of an estimate to put your character for truth.

Repudiation—the Report.

In another column will be found the Report of the Committee of the House, on the disgraceful doctrines promulgated by the meeting in Philadelphia city, on the subject of the State debt. This, we believe, is the first and only meeting ever held in this State where the agrarian and revolutionary opinions of repudiation have ever been upheld; and we are rejoiced to see the schemes of designing knaves, meet with a proper repulse from our Legislative Halls. They call upon our law makers to refuse to pay money borrowed and expended by the State, simply, because, the debt has now become a little larger than they have desired. But why need we write on the subject. The Report says more in its comprehensive lines, than we could write, if we filled our paper. Read it, every Pennsylvanian; and when you have read it, you will think as we do, that the man who advocates such infamous notions as are contained in the resolutions of that meeting must be either a madman or a speculating knave.

Love of the People.

At the last session of our Legislature, a bill was passed giving to the people the right to elect the canal commissioners. Gov. Porter carried that bill in his pocket or somewhere else during the recess, and upon the meeting of the Legislature,

this winter, sent in a veto. Thus evincing his determination to keep out of the hands of the people the election of their officers. He will not trust the people to choose their own men to guard their interests, but he will do it for them, and this he calls love of the people!

His canal commissioners have, during the last summer paid, for the comparatively small break on the Delaware Canal One hundred and fifty thousand dollars! and yet he will not agree that the people shall have the right to select their own officers to guard such expenditures. Will Dr. Espy, the Venango county Treasurer, and present Auditor General, go on there and gather up a gang of their State thieves and try to see how much of that was stolen or squandered? His zeal was manifested in this county two or three years since on the "big break." Could he not try his skill on the little break which cost the State half as much. Could not his love for the people's interest send him here to teach his lacqueys how they could pillage a little more. His patron and master, David, does not like the notions of Inquisitorial Committees. His love for the people is so great. Does he fear that a committee might investigate the expenditures on that break? Will the people bear in mind these evidences of Porter's affection for them.

State Finances.

Our readers will find below, the Report of the receipts and expenditures of our State, during the last fiscal year. It will not prove uninteresting to them, we feel confident, as they can there see in a very comprehensive manner, the sources of revenue, and causes of expenditures. Let it be examined with no little care.

It will be seen that the receipts from our public improvements, exceeds, but very little, one million, while its expenses exceed THREE MILLIONS. Something more than three times as much. When do they expect that their debt can be lessened, when such a state of facts meet their eyes? Would it not be better that some of the money now squandered along the line of canal, to enrich party favorites, by fat contracts on old locks and new bridges, or by the employment of ten day men to vote at every petty election, should be saved to pay state debts? Farmers, do you not think that there is something needed along our lines of Improvements, to render them productive, or a source of revenue to the State? If some other plan than the present was adopted, do you think that any officer whose daily pay is only \$2 50 per day could make himself wealthy in three or four years? Yet, cannot you see some such causes? Why is it that the expenses of our canals and railroads increase faster than the amount of their tolls? It is so, and every man who examines them annually will know it. If you would trench their expenses take the appointment of their officers out of the hands of the Governor, then there will not be so much of your money squandered to secure the election of any man to that office. Take it yourselves—elect your own men, and the repairs will cost one half less.

Receipts and Payments at the State Treasury, during the fiscal year ending 30th November, 1841.

RECEIPTS.

Loan per act of 11th June 1840	\$146,362 15
Loan per act of 16th Jan. 1841	800,000 00
Loan per act of 4th May 1841	1,741,650 68
Loan per act of 6th May '41, 674,918 13	
Charter loan per resolution of 5th May 1841	540,981 00
Canal tolls	\$498,422 89
Railroad "	263,937 55
Motive power	293,034 16
	1,055,394 60
Auction commissions	\$12,700 00
" duties	77,022 15
	89,722 15
Dividends on bank stock, " on turnpike bridge and navigation stocks,	118,091 90
Tax on bank dividends	50,355 72
" Writs, &c., " Certain offices,	96,921 61
" Corporation stocks per act 11th June, '40	28,571 63
Tax on Real and personal estate, per act 11th June, 1840,	6,419 00
	37,333 93
	33,292 77