

The Extraordinary Message.

The Philadelphia "Ledger," an independent paper, professedly, but having, as we think, a strong leaning towards Locofocism, has the following remarks upon the Governor's last extraordinary Message:

THE GOV. AND THE "LUMBER MERCHANTS."

The Governor's message is a curiosity. He expresses great indignation at being suspected of any participation in "contracts for lumber," and yet takes the very step best fitted to involve himself in suspicion. If he be innocent, nothing can show it so thoroughly, if at all, as a full investigation, and a publication of the whole case; and to this he is too intelligent to be blind. The Legislature was attempting such investigation, and to accomplish it, make a witness of one of the parties accused, and for the purpose of procuring his testimony, promise him immunity. The Governor, upon an intimation that his name has been used by the accused as a party concerned with them, tells the Legislature that their promise of immunity to the State witness shall not avail him, but that he shall be prosecuted like the rest of the guilty. The obvious effect of this message will be to stop the mouth of the witness; and the obvious interpretation of the Governor's wish to stop his mouth, is fear of his telling too much! If the Governor wishes to meet the charge boldly, his mode of operation is singular.

If the Governor be desirous of concealing any thing connected with these scandalous transactions, his message is very artfully drawn. He says he has reason to believe that certain letters are in the hands of persons amenable to legal process, tending to prove a conspiracy to procure corrupt legislation during the session of 1840; that these letters contain false references to himself, of a character wicked enough to call for the immediate prosecution of all parties concerned, in order that the Executive may be punished if the charges be true, and the authors be punished if the charges be false. He adds that the recent resolution of the Legislature, directing a *nolle prosequi*, upon any criminal prosecution against George Handy, is subject to a condition, with which he may or may not comply; if he has fully complied with it, he can plead it against any prosecution; if he has not, he is not entitled to protection; that he has directed prosecution to be instituted against Handy, and those implicated with him. He then recommends that all original letters, or any vouchers, in possession of any committee, or either House, be preserved as an essential part of the trial.

Let us examine all this. The Legislature promises immunity to Handy, upon condition of his telling the whole truth.—The investigation is pending, and Handy is testifying under the promise. Yet in the very midst of this investigation, the Governor assumes that he has not complied with the condition, and directs a prosecution against him. Upon what right does the Governor assume this, before the witness has told his whole story? How can the Governor know, before the testimony is finished, what parts of the case the witness intended to suppress, or whether he means to suppress any? If the testimony be not closed, this prosecution will effectually restrain the witness from telling any thing more. If he is to be prosecuted, he will sooner trust his chance for acquittal upon the portion of the tale already told, than upon pleading the resolution against promise of immunity after he has told the whole.—Besides, after telling the whole story, and pleading the promise in bar to the prosecution, he will be obliged to prove that he has told all; for, as in such a plea, he offers affirmative matter, he takes the burden of proving it. And how can he prove that he has told all? The nature of the case renders this impossible, unless by the testimony of some other party implicated; and such other party cannot testify without "turning State's evidence," for which the permission of the Attorney General is necessary. And if the Attorney General should not grant such permission, Handy cannot prove that he has told all, and consequently cannot sustain his plea of the legislative promise. The Governor, a shrewd lawyer, sees all this, and Handy's counsel sees it. Therefore Handy will be apprised of his danger, and advised to hold his tongue. And thus upon the extraordinary assumption of the Governor, before the investigation is closed, that the State's witness will not disclose all the facts, and by the extraordinary prosecution founded on that assumption, is the investigation virtually suppressed.

The Governor says that certain letters in possession of the parties implicated, refer improperly to himself, and that, for the purpose of eliciting a full disclosure, he has directed all the parties to be prosecuted. How, in the name of law and common sense, can a full disclosure be elicited by such a step? All the parties being prosecuted, not one of them can be a witness, without the permission of the Attorney General; and as that officer has not granted the permission to Handy, he will not probably grant to any of the rest. As a transaction of such a character would have no witnesses who were not parties, its details cannot be known beyond these parties implicated; and as these, being prosecuted, are not allowed to testify in their own favor, and cannot be compelled to criminate themselves, we cannot imagine how the transaction is to be proved. The only testimony that can be procured,

will be the disclosures already made by Handy; and as these may not be sufficient, and as he is restrained from saying any more, the prosecution must fail for want of evidence. Thus the Governor, by this very step, will have prevented that very disclosure for which he professes to be so solicitous.

The Governor mentions letters in possession of the parties implicated, as implicating himself. Does he expect to procure them by prosecution of the holders? If the letters implicate such holders, as are thus mentioned by the Governor as part of the testimony to be offered against them, these holders must be dull indeed to deliver them to the Attorney General, or any other person, for the purpose of being produced. They are not fools enough to accuse themselves, or furnish testimony for the prosecution; and they will therefore be especially careful to conceal all letters and other documents still within their control. The Governor knows this; and whatever were his intention, he has virtually told them, in this message, to keep their letters out of sight! If they choose to do this, how can the Attorney General reach such letters?—He can issue no process to obtain them which they are bound to obey; and if he call for them, they will tell him to prove that any such letters exist, and if they exist, that he has any right to them. As he cannot prove the first, excepting by themselves, nor the second at all, they are perfectly safe. And as a last resort, they can say that the letters tend to criminate themselves, and therefore that he has no right to them. If the letters are in the possession of the holders, and are not, upon this proceeding of the Governor, put entirely beyond the reach of the law, we shall give these holders very little credit for common prudence.

The Governor directs any committee of the Legislature to preserve any letters or documents already furnished. They are not obliged to obey this, and it will certainly stimulate the owners, or witnesses who have furnished them, to regain them without delay. And if the committee, or other present keepers, should surrender them, where is the Governor's prosecution? The message virtually tells all who have furnished letters or other documents to the committees to withdraw them without delay.

Let this affair be thoroughly probed, and let all the guilty be brought to light and punished, whether they be public servants or private citizens. The people of this State have been cheated enough by knaves in office and knaves in private life. No dodging now!

Unmitigated Rascality.

As one instance among thousands of the Governor's dishonesty, we refer the reader to the following put forth in his last organ:

"Had not the currency of the State been corrupted and debased by the Federal 'tinkers' of last year, and had the tolls accruing from our public works consisted, as before, in part funds, there might have been a show of common sense in the protocol of these complaining dignitaries; but, it will be recollected, that by the provisions of the 'matchless sanative,' alias relief-law, of last session, the 4th of May issue was made receivable in payment of public dues. Consequently, by far the largest portion of the tolls are paid in this depreciated trash—the product of a FEDERAL legislation—it having been constituted by that Federal legislature a 'legal tender.'"

The villany of this extract will only appear in its full force, when it is known that by far the most depreciated and worthless of these "Relief Notes" are those of the Towanda and Erie Banks, each of which the Governor authorized to issue \$100,000 more than the law allowed; or rather, he authorized the Towanda Bank to issue this sum, and the Erie Bank THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS more than the law allowed! Was ever such barefaced impudence before exhibited!—Harrisburg Chronicle.

Death of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence.

The sad duty devolves upon us of announcing the decease of another Member of the House of Representatives, than whom that body possesses few whose death would be more lamented than his will be by those who have enjoyed the opportunity of knowing and appreciating his many titles to respect and esteem.

The Hon. JOSEPH LAWRENCE, one of the Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania, expired at his lodgings in this city yesterday morning, at a little after 11 o'clock. His illness had been of some two weeks' duration, and is supposed to have been induced by fatigue and anxiety of mind consequent upon his late painful attendance upon the death-bed of his eldest son and son's wife, and upon the illness of other members of his family, from a protracted visit to whom he had but recently returned.

Mr. LAWRENCE was fifty-four years of age. For many years he had been in public service. Nine years, first and last, he served in the Legislature of his own State, during four years of which he occupied the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives. For four years, in the nineteenth and twentieth Congresses, he was a Member of the House of Representatives of the United States. One year he was Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania; soon after retiring from which station upon a change of parties, he was again elected a Representative to Congress, and

took his seat at the opening of the late Extra Session. His public duties he discharged with faithfulness, ability, and assiduity.

Uniting with great amenity of manners and kindness of heart, much experience in public affairs, and the most inflexible integrity, his influence was always great and salutary, and his death will be felt as a loss to his State and to the Public.

To the family of which he was the affectionate and beloved head, his death is an affliction which no earthly power can relieve. But to them it will be some consolation to know that he died the peaceful and happy death of a faithful follower of that religion of which he had for a long time been an earnest professor.—National Intelligencer.

From Rhode Island.

The Alexandria Gazette says—"We are gratified to see it stated that the Rhode Island case, having been laid before the Executive by both parties, from that State the President and Cabinet decided with entire unanimity in favour of the legally constituted authorities, and will, if necessary, exercise the power granted by the Constitution, to preserve the state from being unlawfully revolutionized by the designing demagogues who have misled and deceived a large portion of the people there, and who seem bent on exciting civil war."

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.—The Providence Journal of Thursday contains a Postscript, embracing a letter from President Tyler, in reply to a letter from the Governor of Rhode Island.—The National Executive says: "It will be my duty to respect the requisitions of that Government which has been recognised as the Existing Government of the state in all time past, until I shall be advised in a regular manner that it has been altered and abolished, and another substituted in its place by Legal and Peaceable Proceedings adopted and framed by the Authorities and people of the State."

The Providence Chronicle of Thursday evening has a postscript stating that the revolutionary party are determined not to change their course in consequence of the President's letter, but will persist in holding their elections under the pretended new constitution, this day.

That election will of course be illegal, and the parties acting therein will subject themselves to condign punishment under the laws of the State. What will be the result will now soon be known.

HOW THE ACCIDENT TO THE MEDORA OCCURRED.—Some facts have come to knowledge of the disaster to the Medora. Joseph Craig has confessed that he caused the explosion, by removing the weight on the lever of the safety-valve to its further extremity, and then putting on additional weight; and that Ramsey and Ferguson were cognizant of his doing so—that it was in fact the act of all three by agreement, though actually done by him—and that they did not intend to do mischief, but had intended, as conjectured by Mr. Watchman, to display the qualities of the boat to the best advantage. These confessions, if established as true, will go to confirm the testimony of Mr. Brown and others, taken at the inquest, touching the great strength of the boiler.

The Wounded.—Capt. Sutton is in a fair way of recovery. John Samuel Mitchell, brother of James Thomas Mitchell, is also doing well and expected to recover. Daniel Stevens, from the Eastern Shore, Dorchester county, who was badly scalded in the face, though suffering much, is well attended to, and expected to survive. Joseph Graig, is also slowly improving.—United States.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.—We copy the following letter, giving information of the loss of the American ship Majesty, with the greater portion of her crew, from the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser of last evening.

HAVRE, March 13th, 1842.

Sir—I have just received a letter from my Vice Consul, at Boulogne, informing me of the loss of the American ship Majesty, Capt. Morrison, which took place on the 10th of January, on the coast of Merlincour, six leagues to the westward of Boulogne.

It appears that this ship lately sailed from Antwerp, bound to Apalachicola, and out of 16 persons which formed the crew, only 5 were saved, the captain, as well as the two mates, being amongst the number who unfortunately perished. The ship, which went to pieces, was to be sold this day by the Marine for what she would produce, as it would otherwise prove a total loss. A bag containing 1500 francs was found in the wreck. It is not known whether Capt. Morrison had the proceeds of his outward freight on board or not.

The weather has lately been most boisterous, and several accidents have happened near this place. I have not, however, heard of any other American vessel having been lost during its continuance. I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant, for R. G. Heasley, MOSES TAYLOR.

Walter R. Jones, Esq., New York.

Not long since a fellow thus talking to himself, and imagining all right, and having arranged every thing to his satisfaction, said as he staggered along, "Well if I owe any body any thing, I'm willing to forgive 'em the debt. Yes that will do. And what I owe the landlord I'll stay and board it out.—Magnolia.

LATEST FROM MEXICO.—Advices from Matamoros to the 3d instant were received at New Orleans by an arrival on the 9th inst.: at that time every thing was quiet, nor was there any talk of army movements. Gen. Arista was at Monterrey, 400 miles from the frontier of Texas. Monterrey papers to the 21st have been received, from which the following items are extracted:—

A letter from Gen. Rafael Vasquez, commander of the expedition to Bexar, and dated on the banks of the Rio Grande, March 11th, gives an account of his retreat, which was affected without hindrance or molestation on the part of the Texans. He adds, that on his arrival near the Great River, so exhausted were the horses of his men, that had they been attacked not more than forty of them would have been able to join in the charge.

A letter from Pedro de Ampudia relates how he captured Goliad with only 120 men. By the bye, General Vasquez says that the Texans were 266 strong at Bexar before they abandoned the place. A letter from General Arista, after expressing his satisfaction that no outrage on the rights of individuals or property had attended the occupation of Bexar, by the Mexican troops, repeats the assurance that the promise held out in his proclamation of the 9th of January, will be strictly fulfilled.

LATER FROM TEXAS.—The New Orleans Picayune of the 7th, reports the arrival of the steamship Neptune, bringing Houston papers of the 2d, and Galveston papers of the 4th inst. Nothing very important relative to the war with Mexico was found in them. In fact, nothing to corroborate or justify the exaggerated rumors circulated here respecting the immense Mexican invasion.

POLITICAL AND MORAL STATISTICS.—Rhode Island which has lived in war and peace for nearly two hundred years under a Charter, has suddenly wakened up to the want of a Constitution, which they are determined to have, after one half the people kills off the other half. They will have it, "be d—d—d—d if they don't!"—unless the charter Governor loads his muskets with lead.

In Virginia, the people have taken up "rails" against the sheriff, on which they intend to ride him and his bidders at sale; and the members of the legislature are going home from Richmond with their pockets full of coffee—see Star.

Pennsylvania compels the banks and all others, to pay up instantly, and then repudiates her own debts.

Delaware is the most perfect Yankee state in the Union. She enjoys all the benefit of the rail roads and canals of Pennsylvania and Maryland, without expending the first cent, and has money to lend both of these big fat states, at a usurious interest—if they can give her security. Illinois and Indiana are both covered over so thick with irredeemable bank paper, and irretrievable bad debt, that the rich soil under these incumberances cannot be come at. It took all the last cotton crop of Mississippi to make certificates of state stock, which has left that state minus more millions than she has negroes to pay. Uncle Sam had so much surplus money in store a few years since that it all spoiled on his hands.—Like wheat overkept, the weevil got into it, and he is now suffering a famine.—Pittsburg Vindicator.

BRILLIANT METEOR.—The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser of the 11th inst. says:—About half past two o'clock this morning, a most brilliant meteor shot athwart the sky a little to the south and west of this city. When first seen, it was at an elevation of about 45 deg. nearly in the south-west, and thence moved rapidly to the northward till it reached a point to the north-west of the city, when it burst with a loud explosion resembling the blasting of rocks, succeeded by a heavy rumbling sound for some moments. The meteor was very large and its light was like that of day. The sky was perfectly cloudless at the time. In the fore part of the evening there was quite a brilliant display of the aurora borealis.

SHAMEFUL NEGLECT.—The New York authorities have refused to keep Hogan in limbo, or to make even a big dog, much less a lion, out of such a whelp. The Courier and Enquirer says:—

"J. S. Hogan has been discharged by the magistrate before whom he was brought at Rochester; there being no sufficient testimony against him. It is difficult to decide upon the relative claims to ridicule in this case. Whether the loafing vagabonds who caused him to be arrested, or the bowhiskered puppy who was the subject of the farce, have earned the best title to contempt is exceedingly doubtful.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN COLUMBIA, S. C.—The town of Columbia was visited by a destructive fire on the morning of the 12th inst. which consumed the most beautiful part of the city including the business portion of the place. Twenty-nine stores and dwellings, besides numerous out-buildings were consumed, comprising the most valuable houses. The loss is estimated at about \$200,000 a portion of which is covered by policies.

WINNING YOUNG LADIES.—The Picayune says: "Young ladies who read the newspapers are always observed to possess winning ways, most amiable dispositions, and invariably make good housewives."



THE JOURNAL.

One country, one constitution one destiny.

Huntingdon, April 27, 1842.

The Case of our Sheriff.

In to-day's paper may be found another extraordinary document, which emanated from the wily brain of that "outraged innocent," the Governor of Pennsylvania. We publish it entire, and as we have no Pennsylvania coat-of-arms quite as neat as the one in the original, we insert the "emblem," which answers just as good a purpose in this particular case.

The said document is not a matter of as great importance to any one as the "LUMBER CONCERN," nor is it the subject of much astonishment here, where its author is perfectly well known. It is simply a piece of parchment bearing the name of David R. Porter and the "great seal" of the Commonwealth, purporting to be a revocation or supersedeas of the Commission of John Shaver as Sheriff of Huntingdon county. We wish our readers to see the contents of the parchment, and discover the mean and contemptible subterfuge used therein; and the bold assumption of power and authority by the Governor, not vested in him by the Constitution and Laws of the State.

His Excellency sets out with a recital of the Commission of the Sheriff. The conviction and sentence are next recited in order.

Now, what are the conviction and the sentence? From the records of the Court, it appears that on the 8th of September 1841, before the election of John Shaver, he, together with several others, committed an offence against a positive statute—against the election laws of this Commonwealth. After the election, on the 1st day of November, a prosecution was commenced against him—at the November Sessions a "true bill" was found—at the January Sessions 1842, he was tried and convicted. There was then no Coroner in commission in the county, and there being no officer to carry the sentence of the Court into execution, the Court continued the matter over until the April Court. In the mean time a Coroner was appointed and commissioned, and we believe the commission was recorded at the expense of that loyal subject, the deputy Attorney General; and at the April Sessions John Shaver was sentenced, as set forth in the pretended supersedeas.

On the trial it was plainly shown that John Shaver had been entrapped by designing politicians—that he had been persuaded and drawn into a compliance to a scheme which was devised by others, in order to withdraw one candidate from the field, and defeat another thereby. The scheme, it is known, was successful, and John Shaver was elected. On the trial of the indictment it was made perfectly manifest that although John Shaver had infringed the letter of the law, yet he was not such a subject as the spirit of the law contemplated to punish. It was on this account that the Court passed the minimum sentence upon him. The law left it in the discretion of the Court to fine in any sum, not less than one hundred dollars, nor exceeding one thousand dollars; and to imprison for any time, not less than one month, nor more than twelve months. It will be perceived that the Court passed the lightest sentence upon him that it was possible, under the law, for them to pass. It was because that degrading guilt which was intended by the law to be severely punished and suppressed, was not found in John Shaver.

And it must be evident to all who have paid attention to the whole matter from beginning to end, that it is a persecution got up against John Shaver, prompted by the malignant and revengeful spirit of disappointed politicians. His persecutors no doubt thought, and still think, that as they had contributed greatly towards his election, and laid the very scheme for him, to secure his election, (for which he is now prosecuted, and persecuted and purged with savage vindictiveness,) that he should have done as they expected him to do—that is, to be made a pliant rooz in their hands, to accomplish selfish purposes.—This we are led to believe, from seeing the course they have latterly taken in regard to the matter.

But to return to the "public document" under consideration. After reciting the offence, (called by the Governor himself, but a *misdeamnor*, which the law defines to be a "petty offence," an "ill behaviour,") and the conviction and sentence, his Excellency proceeds thus: "Now know you, that by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the CONSTITUTION and LAWS of this Commonwealth, and for the CAUSES ABOVE STATED, it fully appearing to me that you have NOT BEHAVED YOURSELF WELL IN said office," &c. Now, mind you—"FOR THE CAUSES ABOVE STATED," (the petty offence) and it fully appearing to Governor Porter that John Shaver has not behaved himself well IN said office of Sheriff—for these reasons David R. Porter, Governor &c., revokes, annuls and supercedes the Commission of the said Sheriff Shaver. It is needless for us to add that his Excellency's "Greeting" bears a bold and palpable LIE upon its very face. The alleged *misdeamnor* in office is stated on the face of the parchment to have been committed BEFORE HE WAS COMMISSIONED—BEFORE HE WAS ELECTED.

Then too, the "IMMACULATE" talks of the power and authority vested in him by the Constitution! There is no such power given to the Governor either by the "old" or the new Constitution!! That must be an error of the "transcribing clerk"!!! Or perhaps his Excellency got hold of the new Constitution of Rhode Island, and that may confer such power and authority upon him.

The pretended supersedeas or the "supercilious" as we have heard it called, was attempted to be entered and filed of record in the Court of Common Pleas, but as the Judges were divided in opinion it was not done. John Shaver still acts as Sheriff of this county, and will continue to do so. His persecutors will no doubt resort to other measures to harass him, and endeavor to disturb still further the due administration of Justice. It is their vocation; but it will avail them nothing—it will not succeed.

Governor Porter has appointed and commissioned JOHN SIMPSON, of this Borough, Coroner of Huntingdon county—neither of the two persons elected within the last three years having taken out commissions.

Mr. IRA HOADLEY, late assistant at the Washington Hotel in Harrisburg, has become proprietor of the well known American House in Hollidaysburg, which he conducts on temperance principles. Mr. Hoadley is a gentleman highly spoken of by all who are acquainted with him.

In another column will be found an account of the death of the Hon. JOSEPH LAWRENCE, member of Congress from Washington county. Since the election of 1840, Pennsylvania has lost five of her delegation in Congress: namely, William S. Ramsey, Charles Ogle, Henry Black, Davis Dimock, Jr. and Joseph Lawrence.

JAMES M. KINKEAD has been appointed Post Master at Yellow Springs, in this county.

As was expected, Senator PENNINGMAN and all others who go in for investigating the charges of bribery and corruption, are denounced as "hired slanderers" by the whole posse of Loco Foco presses.

Governor Porter's pensioned editors are reviving the old "hue and cry" against Biddle and the Bank. But it won't do—they cannot so easily divert public attention from Kickapoo, Winnebago & Co.—Messrs. Editors, the veil is entirely too thin—the cloven foot "sticks out a feet." Try something else than Biddle and the Bank. That "dog has had its day."

It is stated that JOSEPH PLANKINTON, Esq. late county Treasurer of Philadelphia, is a defaulter to the amount of fifty or sixty thousand dollars. It is also stated that the county and the state are fully secured by the official bonds given by him.

Mr. P. has resigned his office, and JAMES H. PAGE, Esq. has been appointed in his place.

Wonders.

Wonder how many "mint drops" it took to resuscitate a certain sickly lococoed print, located in "these ere diggins?"

Wonder how many feet of "Winnebago scantling" it takes to keep said print propped up?

Wonder how many "mint juleps" its Editor has been treated to for his services?