



THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL.

"One country, one constitution, one destiny."

Huntingdon, Aug. 3, 1842.

COUNTY CONVENTION,

AND

Democratic Harrison Meeting

The citizens of the several townships and borough of this county, are requested to meet at their usual places of meeting, on Saturday, the 6th day of August, to elect two Delegates from each of said townships and boroughs, to represent them in the County Convention, which will meet in the borough of Huntingdon, on Wednesday, the 11th of August,

at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, to nominate a County Ticket, to be supported by the opponents of the present State administration, at the coming election, and also to appoint Congressional and Senatorial conferees.

By order of the County Committee.
THOS. FISHER, Chairman.
July 13th, 1842.

The Lewistown Bank, it is said, is redeeming all her liabilities in specie. It may be so.

FRIENDS OF THE LAMENTED HARRISON!

Forget not the DELEGATE ELECTION on Saturday next.

It is hoped that the primary elections on Saturday, the 6th, will be attended to by our friends in the different Townships and Boroughs in this county; so that the voice of the people—fully, fairly, and unequivocally expressed—may come up in the COUNTY CONVENTION on the following Wednesday, and present a Ticket that will secure the united and active support of the democracy of numbers in "Old Huntingdon." We are proud to know that our county is full of men "good and true," and of such should our whole ticket be made up; and then, certainly, as in days gone by, can we again triumph over the reckless demagogues of the "foul party" and their deluded followers.

Nominations are to be made for Members of the House of Representatives—Prothonotary and Clerk of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer—Register and Recorder and Clerk of the Orphans' Court—County Commissioner—Auditor—and also Congressional and Senatorial Conferees.

Our indefatigable Loco Foco opponents are already laying schemes to deceive, mislead and distract us as a party. The best interests of the country are at stake—These matters should, therefore, be attended to in time.

Thunder and Lightning.

This neighborhood was, on Friday afternoon last, visited by a heavy thunderstorm, which, did, however, no serious injury that we know of.

In a field on the farm of Mr. John Hildebrand, a mile or two west of this borough, a stack of hay was struck by the lightning, and partly burnt. Seven workmen were in the field, and were talking of going to the stack for shelter from the rain when it was struck; but fortunately, they were far enough from it as to escape all injury.

On the Grave Yard Hill, adjoining town, two oak trees were struck by the fluid, and greatly riven. On Piney Ridge and Stone Creek Hill several trees shared the same fate.

State Convention.

In pursuance of the call of the State Committee, previously published, a Convention of the friends of General Scott assembled at Harrisburg, of Tuesday of last week. The "Telegraph" states that delegates were in attendance from the counties of Allegheny, Adams, Cumberland, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Berks, Dauphin, Cambria, Union and Philadelphia. SAMUEL PARK, of Lancaster, presided.

Information Wanted.

Is it true that some of the officers on the Public Works send the State funds to Pittsburg to buy up Erie Relief Notes at a heavy discount—and then pay off the "hands" with that depreciated currency? And who pockets the profits? We would like to know.

The Legislature have abolished the office of Surveyor General.

Our correspondent, "Leonidas," suggests some wholesome ideas on nominations, in the closing part of his fifth number. Let them be read and considered.

Law Abolishing Imprisonment for Debt.

This law will be found on the first page of to-day's paper. It is given in full, and may be relied on as correct. The proviso, however, in the first section, requiring twenty day's residence to entitle the debtor to its benefits, has been repealed by a subsequent act.

Our readers will no doubt, with most other intelligent men, consider it a long tissue of legal rigmarole—thirty-seven complicated sections of awkwardly dovetailed mischief, trouble and vexation; with a cunningly devised Yankee clap-trap title, namely—"An Act to Abolish Imprisonment for Debt," &c. The Solons who passed the law were no doubt actuated by sinister motives. With all deference to our sage law-makers, we must say that they were actuated by such motives—for we believe it most devoutly. It was originally designed as a trap for the Whigs in the "factious" Senate. An act bearing such a title as this does, was well calculated to gull the poor into a belief that the Loco Focos who profess a love for the "dear people," were trying to do something for their benefit. It was never dreamt of by the Loco Focos that the "factious" Senate would let such a bill pass—but the Senate had seen "traps" before, and were perfectly willing that the Loco Focos should have all the praise or all the blame for this. It passed the Senate with but one dissenting voice, and it is now the law of the land.

To ascertain the merits of this law, it will be well to compare it with the "Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors," which it supercedes. By that act the debtor was permitted to file his bond with any Judge or with the Prothonotary, conditioned for his appearance at the next Court of Common Pleas, there to present his petition for the benefit of that law, and comply with all the orders of the Court in that behalf. On filing such bond, the officer discharged him—and the debtor was at liberty. If he complied with the condition of the bond and the order of the Court he was discharged from all his debts, so far as imprisonment was concerned; and if a creditor afterwards arrested him, he was subject to an action for false imprisonment.

By the new law, the creditor may arrest the debtor, and take him before a judge; and the trial is to be had at once, instead of waiting until the next Court. If the debtor has fifty or a hundred creditors they may, one after another, arrest him and put him through the same farce; and the only restriction there is on the creditor, is the cost of the proceeding, which is but trifling, and will not prevent Shylocks from harassing those who have brought themselves within their power.—But then, to do away this difficulty, our legislators have wisely re-enacted the old insolvent law. So that after being harassed under the new law till he can suffer it no longer, then the debtor may avail himself of a discharge under the insolvent law, or that far more effectual remedy—the BANKRUPT LAW.

As far, indeed, as names are concerned, this new law may be said to evidence the progress of civilization; but it cannot be forgotten that under the old law no honest debtor was ever compelled to see the inside of a prison. Every honest man could get bail for his appearance and then he was at liberty, and the law allowed him to retain more property than most men in good circumstances are possessed of; so that in fact the condition of the poor debtor is not any better now than it was before the passage of this act.

The new law also changes the nature of the bail before justices for appeals and stays of executions. Before the passage of this act, in such cases special bail was entered, which is only for the appearance of the principal—and the bail could at all times be exonerated by delivering up his principal; but under the new law, in order to entitle a party to an appeal or a stay of execution, he must enter absolute bail, which is for the payment of the money; and if the principal does not pay the money the bail cannot in any way be relieved from the payment thereof as long as he remains solvent. This will be a hardship upon the poor man; for although any man could procure special bail, there are but few who can reasonably expect to get absolute bail.

The effect of this law, in connection with the Stay Law, and the Bankrupt Law, will be to check or perhaps finally to abolish the Credit System in Pennsylvania.

There was frost in some parts of this county on the mornings of Monday and Tuesday last, which did but slight injury.

MORE WHO CONSISTENCY.—It was formerly a grave charge against the Democratic party that they wished to destroy all the banks; it is now made a matter of accusation that 24 loco voted to re-charter the Farmers' Bank of Reading in Berks co., an institution that the people of the county, without distinction of party, wished to have re-chartered. Do the whigs and antimasons for an indiscriminate destruction of all banks, that they thus denounce those who charter any?—*Democratic Standard.*

The "Standard" knows very well that the Whigs and Antimasons are not for "an indiscriminate destruction of all banks"—nor are they to be affected by such insinuations. We proved, last week, that the Loco Focos profess to be "UN-FORMALLY OPPOSED TO OUR PRESENT BANKING SYSTEM," while at the same time they charter, re-charter and keep up that system by their votes in the Legislature and by countenancing them at home, thus showing the most palpable inconsistency. This is all that your brethren are accused of, on this score, Mr. Standard. It matters little to us whether the Loco Foco party is uniformly opposed to, or whether it takes the other extreme and uniformly supports, banking. But we do object to its being the one in theory and the other in practice. That's all. How do you like it, Mr. Standard.

Speaker of the Senate.

At the close of the Extra Session, JOHN STROHM, Speaker of the Senate, resigned his station, and the Senate proceeded to an election of Speaker when, after thirty-four unsuccessful ballots, on the thirty-fifth, WILLIAM HIESTER, Senator from Lancaster county, was elected. Mr. Strohm's term of office, as Senator, expired with the late Session.

Extract of a Letter to the Editor, dated, HARRISBURG, July 27th 1842.

DEAR SIR:

The Legislature adjourned last night about 11 o'clock, after passing a bill giving the money in the Treasury, except so much as may be required to defray the annual payments from the treasury, to the domestic creditors, and doubling the present taxes on all property now taxed for state purposes. The Governor did not inform the Legislature what he would do with the Congressional District Bill. It is still in his hands, and it is doubtful whether he will sign, or hold it over the next session.

In haste
Yours &c.

The "Standard" generously offers to inform its readers of the notices of the Sheriff's Sales, &c. gratis, because the Sheriff is allowed to pay but two papers for publishing them, and chooses to have it done in the "Register" and "Journal"—they having the most extensive circulation.

Now, we do not like to be out-done in acts of generosity, and shall, therefore, as a quid pro quo, publish the numerous "proposals," "Attings," and other "State jobs" which make their appearance in the Standard from time to time, and for which that paper alone receives pay. We intend to publish these, we say, whenever we have room, and can borrow the matter. And if our "democratic" brother is not satisfied, and still continues to make a poor mouth about the matter, we shall agree to trade our accounts against the Sheriff for the Standard's accounts against the State—even up—or perhaps give him a few dollars to boot. What say you to the bargain, Mr. Standard? Will you negotiate?

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Jesse Moore.

MR. EDITOR:—

As the time is fast approaching when the Democratic Harrison party of this county are to nominate candidates for the respective offices to be filled the coming fall, allow us, through the columns of your excellent paper, to suggest to the consideration of the County Convention, Mr. JESSE MOORE, our present Representative, as a suitable person to represent this county in the Legislature another session. We feel confident that we express not only our own, but the sentiments of the whole party, when we say that his course during the regular and extra session just terminated, has been not only unexceptionable but exceedingly acceptable to his constituents, and to our friends in the Legislature generally. He has proved himself to be an honest, worthy and faithful man, co-operating always with his political friends, and sincerely attached to correct principles. If he should agree to stand a nomination, his election will be sure.

By publishing the above in your valuable Journal you will oblige

MANY VOTERS.

No. IV.

The cause of the hard times.

MR. EDITOR:

In my former communications I have endeavored to call to the recollection of your readers, some of the facts which have taken place in the last few years; and which have been the primary cause of all our difficulties. Let me now endeavor to show what has been the effect of such a condition of things.

One party has adopted what they considered available rallying cries; and then by every means in their power they have impressed upon the people that the only hope of avoiding embarrassment in the affairs of our national and state governments was to vote for their men, and that they of course would adopt and carry out their measures, for which they so loudly exclaimed. Yet in every case, although always successful, have they either refused to advocate, or denied their attachment to those very measures! Again some other us whether the Loco Foco party was sent bobbing along over their political mire; and that now became the star of certain prosperity; banking. But we do object to its being the one in theory and the other in practice. That's all. How do you like it, Mr. Standard.

What would you, farmers, think of a man who should change each year his plan of planting his corn and each succeeding year gave him a worse crop than the preceding, and who would then refuse to go back to his good old plan that had always secured him a sure crop? Would not all laugh at him as a poor misguided Jape. To be sure you would! You would say to him, "Why you used to have a good crop before you followed the experiments of that fellow who wants to sell you his patent rights, or wants to make you believe you know nothing about farming?" Now how is it with the governments? You have seen how they got along on the old plan, and that we then had good times, but ever since we have been following the advice of these patent democrats, we have been going down hill. But they think the poor and honest hard-working farmer and workingman does not know any thing about government, and that they are bound to believe whatever they are told; and when one of these patent right chaps wants you to follow him he always says "stick to our party—don't desert the party—never go over to the federalists—remember the buck-shot war—you were always a democrat and your father before you," and with such stuff draws your attention from the condition of the country. When thus assailed ask them why has not our party improved the currency? they have been in power for twelve years? why have the expenses of government increased so much? our party has been in power during all the time! why has our state credit got 50 per cent below par—our party has been all this time in power? Why is the National Treasury out of credit and in debt—our party has always been there? Where is the specie currency we were to get—our party have had the power ever since? Where are the honest officers that our party said they would appoint? Is Swartwout one of them? Is Harris? Is Cameron? Is Brodhead? Is Fritz? Our party appointed all these, and they have never been imprisoned. Where is the reduction in the expense of managing our public improvements? they cost more in 1839 to repair them than they did in 1838 even including the stealings on the Big Break, and why is this? our party has had the power? What has stopped the Iron Works—our party have been in power? What has stopped our commerce—our party have been in power? Or, to sum up all, why have the times been every year getting harder since 1832, when our party has been all the while holding the reins of Government? And are these the effects of our party principles as carried out by our men? Ask these questions, and demand answers that will satisfy your mind, and see if any of that party can give you a reply that can take the blame from themselves. Oh no, they will say you are

turning federalist or antimason. They will begin to doubt your Democracy. Yet to me it would seem that it was some evidence of returning reason, and that the spirit of Republican freedom was still alive in your breast. But the truth is, party slang is too often the argument that is used by leaders of both parties. Let reason and not passion be your guide, and my word for it, the gull traps of party will never catch you in its springs. Learn then, to act and think for yourself.—Learn to take a part in all the doings which affect in the remotest manner your interest, and tell the leader of all parties that you intend to guard your own rights, independent of his dictation, or of that of his party. Learn to examine carefully the public acts of your public agents, and you will then see if they do what they say, or whether they do as they please; and let you who are the real sufferers pay the expenses.

Fellow citizens are not these things worthy of your calm, deliberate and earnest attention? How few of the people of our county but who are disgusted at the scenes which every day's legislation presents—which almost every official act produces? How many have given up in despair and say that it makes no odds who is elected, all are rogues alike? There are many, very many; and they say so with some show of truth. Yet where one party have been twelve years promising, and every year breaking those promises—they have a right to say that party has been long enough tried and we can do no worse. They have broken all their pledges.—None of their dreams of prosperity have been realized—none of their experiments have succeeded; and the people have not only the right, but have the best reason in the world to say that their conduct has been the cause of all our hard times.

In my next I will endeavor to show what I believe to be the proper course for the people to pursue to remedy the difficulties which now surround them. The difficulties can be remedied and the remedy is in the hands of the people.

July 28th 1842.

LEONIDAS.

**No. V.
The Remedy.**

MR. EDITOR:

I have said that the remedy for our present difficulties was with the people, and I propose to explain my views as to how they can apply that remedy with success.

It has been said, by one of the most learned and able commentators upon the science of government and law, that "when a free people have their constitution and system of laws pretty well established, construed and understood—when their usages and habits of business have accommodated themselves to their institutions; and especially when they are secure in their persons and property, under an impartial administration of justice, they should above all things to BEWARE OF THEORY, for in that way madness lies." The truth of this every one will admit who will look back over the past. Had the people not been deluded by the false theories of the politicians of the last few years how much better would have been their condition. How plainly do we see that "in that way madness lies." When the people were "secure in their persons and property" twelve years ago, they forgot the good old maxim of "a bird in the hand &c.," and the wild and Utopian notions of party demagogues were adopted. The experiments of party assumed the place of the long tried, and well proven systems, adopted by those sages who did not wear their principles as men wear a coat, which must change with every fashion, & the end is not yet. We have gone far enough to see the "madness" of our course; and let me say now as the first step in the remedial process—"BEWARE OF THEORIES, IN THAT WAY MADNESS LIES!" Make up your minds that you will not be misled by new notions of government—that the oily tongue of the political bawlers of the present day cannot direct you—that you will act by and for yourselves—that you will take a bold and active part in the affairs of your country—that you will take a determined stand in favor of measures—and that those measures must and shall be carried into effect. Measures have heretofore only been heard of in promises before an election. When the election is over there is nothing more heard of their measures. Your Legislators go to the seat of government, but what do they do? Your Governor is elected pledged to accomplish wonders in the way of bettering the condition of the country. Yet when he is elected what does he do? draw his pay from the public purse like the rest of the office holders—and you, and the improvement of your situation, or that of the country is forgotten. The people can stop this. Let them refuse at all times to select men for office who will not avow their measures before election; and who will not try to carry them out after the election. If once deceived, never let THAT MAN deceive you again. Let him be denounced and despised as unworthy of your confidence; but select another; and when you have thus commenced

your work of reformation, you will soon find the institutions of your country assuming permanency and stability.

But I hear some one say, there is nobody we can trust any more. It is a mistake. You are led to think so because the commotion of party politics has shaken a basket of shelled corn will bring the cobs to the top) and when any office is to be filled one of these fellows is always ready and willing to fill it. But here let me draw a line of distinction between those men who think, read and discuss the principles of political economy, and those men who talk nothing but the slang phrases of party; who say "it is all right" to every act of one party, and "it is all wrong" to all the acts of the other party. The former always are governed by the circumstances of the case; they tell the truth or a falsehood; will agree or disagree with any man; will call the thieving of their party honesty, and the honesty of the other party theft; will advocate a measure to-day and pronounce it a federal notion to-morrow; will call banks "monied aristocracies" in public while they are stock-holders in them. The former are the mainstay of the people, and the latter are the slang-whanging demagogues of the bar room, or an election day, whose mouths are always full of every election victory and nothing else. There can be no difficulty in choosing between these two. With the first you are sure of having a fair trial of principles, for they will sink or swim with those they avow. With the latter you will always be deceived; and in a careful selection of the former you will be sure to apply another remedy to the present existing evils.

But again, I hear another say, "oh what can the people do? the politicians always have matters cut and dried." Let me tell you what you can do. Let every man who values his birth rights go to the primary meetings, and to all meetings; let him show the politician that their eyes are on him. Let them watch the hangers on of the party; and whenever he hears a man say if "I dont get a nomination for this or that I'll go over to the others—never trust such a man!" He would sell his birth-right for a mess of pottage. His principles will never keep the people out of their difficulties. He will adopt any of those theories "in which madness lies," caring for nothing but his own aggrandizement. Go to the primary meetings; be seen and heard there; and when you select men to represent your wishes on any subject select such as will go for the good of the many, and not for the success of the few. Do this and you have applied another of the remedies to the existing sufferings of the people.

These are some of the primary steps which the people must take if they would set about applying means to remedy the misfortunes which have befallen them; and I do hope they will receive their calm consideration.

LEONIDAS.

August 1st 1842.

Deplorable Casualty.

We learn from the Bradford Porter the particulars of the most deplorable and shocking occurrence we ever remember to have recorded, resulting in the death of a worthy citizen of Bradford county:

The Porter states that "Mr. Alonzo B. Holcomb, a farmer, of Leroy township, was the owner of a valuable Bull, which he kept chained to a stake in a field on his farm. On Friday last Mr. Holcomb, as is supposed, undertook to remove the stake to another part of the field, when he was attacked by the bull and gored to death. So furious were the assaults of the animal, that the man was literally torn piece-meal: not an article of clothing was found upon his person except the wrist-band of his shirt. After accomplishing his work of destruction, the bull approached the house when his head and horns were observed by some of the family to be covered with blood, and on search being made, the mutilated remains of the unfortunate man were discovered, near where the bull had been chained.

A CONVICTED JUSTICE IN PRISON.—William Wiley, Esq., who was some months since convicted of receiving stolen money, viz: the large amount stolen from the Frederick Bank, of Maryland, to return it to the Bank officers, and whose case was carried up to the Supreme Court on a bill of exceptions; in consequence of that Court having affirmed the judgment of the Court below, and sent the case back to the Circuit Court for sentence, was this morning arrested on a bail-piece and lodged in the city prison; there to remain until the Court can pass sentence upon him, in September next.—*N. Y. Union.*

HEAVY DAMAGES.—The Earl of Kinnoul presented the Rev. Robert Young to the living of Auchterarder, in Scotland, and demanded of the Presbytery to give him a trial. This was refused. An appeal was had to the Synod, which body ordered the Presbytery to conform to the wish of the patron. It refused, and the General Assembly sustained the refusal. An appeal was had to the House of Lords, when the judgment of the Synod was confirmed. The Synod refused to conform, and legal proceedings being had, the Presbytery was ordered to pay £5000 to the Earl of Kinnoul, and £50,000 to the Rev. Mr. Young, as damages.—*U. S. Gazette.*

Chapman, the "crowing" editor in Indiana, has just been cast in a verdict of \$900 for malicious prosecution.