



THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL.

Huntingdon, Jan. 4, 1843.

"One country, one constitution, one destiny."

V. B. PALMER, Esq. (No. 104 S. 3rd St. Philadelphia) is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, to procure subscriptions and advertisements.

Wood Wanted.

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We are under obligations to Gen. JAMES IRVIN, for valuable Congressional documents.

The Old and the New Year.

Another year, with all its joys and sorrows, its cares, pains and pleasures, is added to those already gone down the rapid tide of time, to be remembered but with the things that once were. And we have entered upon another New Year.—It is natural for the mind, at this season of mingled feelings, to take a retrospective view, and call to remembrance the varied scenes through which we have passed. If, when we contemplate our actions—the performance of our duties towards our God, our neighbors, and ourselves—not one wrong rises up, like a spirit of darkness, to haunt us, happy indeed are we. But alas! who of us can feel this happiness?

The past year, doubtless, has been to many a season of pain and disappointment, of tears and sorrows. Friends, near and dear, have left them. Loved voices, whose tones were music to their ears; hands that grasped theirs with all the warmth of true affection; eyes that sparkled with delight at their approach; smiles that spread a radiance around like sunbeams; and bosoms that swelled with fond anticipations when the past year was ushered in upon them, are now locked up in the silence, cold, and gloom of the grave. How saddening the thoughts! Others can look back, far down through the vista of the past, and recollect happy hours which illumined their pathway—the sunshine, the flowers and the congenial spirits that cheered them—happy hours they were, but can never again return.

To many of the writer's acquaintances and friends the past year brought blessings which they most ever hold in grateful remembrance. Some rose from deep degradation, and shook off the fetters and the tatters of inebriation, and now stand forth in all the dignity and pride of their nature, useful to themselves and to society. Habitations of discord and wretchedness became palaces of peace and happiness; and where sorrow and want prevailed, joy and plenty now abound. Such are the benefits which marked the opening and the progress of the past year; while the close was distinguished by the coming of "good tidings unto the meek," "liberty to the captives," the "binding up of the broken hearted," and the opening of the prison to them that were bound. Those who knew no God have erected altars in the family circle, and now offer up the fervent prayers of renewed hearts. They have cause for rejoicing. But, dear readers, we all have cause for rejoicing. Our lives have been preserved through another year; and we have been guarded from many of the ills which human nature is heir to. Divine Providence has rewarded the labors of the husbandman with abundant harvests, and our favored country continues to be a land of plenty. And though our public and private affairs are in great embarrassment, and we almost sink into ruin under its effects, we are but reaping the bitter fruits of our own sowing. Thus much of the past.

WE ARE ALL ONE YEAR NEARER THE LAND OF SPIRITS!

The future is dark. There are none who can draw aside the veil that hides from "mortal ken" the mysteries of time to come. Yet "Hope tells a flattering tale!" Man always anticipates; forgetting the past, he continues forming schemes and plans to be followed through the future; he builds "castles in the air," and chases the "ignis fatuus," ignited vapour, until he finds himself with one foot in the grave, when he is startled to know that his earthly course is so nearly run. Alas, how few of the day-dreams of the last year have been realized! and

yet we still dream on and dream on of years of unclouded sunshine.

To you, readers, we wish a happy New Year. May all your innocent anticipations be realized. If you are rich we wish you a spirit of forbearance, liberality and charity; if poor, we wish you the truest happiness—contentment—which is better than wealth. And to all we wish warm and generous hearts, and the consolation of duties faithfully performed.

The religious reformation in this place, noticed last week, is still progressing. We are informed that about eighty members have attached themselves to the Presbyterian church, and as great a number to the Methodist.

The Legislature of this State met yesterday. We will endeavor to keep our readers advised of the doings of the Solons at Harrisburg and Washington during the winter.

For nearly a week past we have had a little snow and a good deal of sleighing in these "diggings."

Show the "Great Seal."

If Messrs. Woods and Hildbrand, who are indicted for a Conspiracy to conceal the Assessor of Henderson township, before the general election in 1841, have a PREVIOUS PARDON in their possession, as is supposed, we hope they will plead it in bar of the prosecution at the Quarter Sessions next week, and not increase costs unnecessarily by another continuance.

Don't read it, Girls.

Some time ago a young lady in town had her back up at us most awfully, and we feared she would stick it out forever; but since Miss Lucy A. M'Bricker lost her bustle we notice quite a happy change in the young lady's appearance.

General Jackson's Fine.

"Oliver Oldschool," in his letter of the 26th ult., discourses on this subject as follows:

The debate of the bill to refund Gen. Jackson's fine, will again come up in the Senate this week. The object the Locos have in view in bringing this matter before Congress and the public, is as plain as a pike staff;—to make a little more political capital out of the old man to help the party along. They want the Whigs should refuse to refund the fine, so that they can appeal to the people, and preach a few doleful sermons to them on the injustice done to an old hero and patriot by treading over the grave. They would rather the bill should not pass, than it should. But why did they not refund the fine while they had majorities in both branches of Congress, and Mr. Van Buren in the Presidential chair? Why let it sleep quietly and undisturbed for twelve years? Their course is the most palpable demagoguism, the most hollow hypocrisy imaginable.

One or two facts in regard to the imposition of this fine, should be remembered. It is a fact that Gen. Jackson declared martial law, he having not the shadow or pretence of right to do so, but in doing it violated the constitution. It is a fact that he imprisoned Judge Hall for issuing a writ of HABEAS CORPUS, that sheet-anchor of liberty, not during a time of war, but some days after he himself had issued a proclamation that a treaty of peace had been entered into between the United States and England! Of course all danger had ceased. Has a military chief a right to silence the laws, and imprison judges for issuing a writ which even Congress itself can only suspend in time of war? If a commander can declare martial law anywhere, he can everywhere, over the whole nation including Congress, and thus make himself at once the sole monarch of the land; all he wants is a devoted army at his heels such as Caesar and Cromwell had. For thus imprisoning him Judge Hall fined him \$1000, it being a contempt of the constitution.—The subject has slept for nearly thirty years; but now that a Whig congress exists, his pretended friends come forward and demand of them what they themselves neglected to do, to refund this fine with interest. This they have said by their votes, they are willing to do, not as a right, but as a gratuity. In doing it they declare they do not intend to censure Judge Hall, or to be understood as acknowledging the right of any Military Commander to declare martial law. Coupled with this proviso, the whigs passed the bill at the last session and the Locos opposed it. The whigs will go just as far this session and no farther. Let the people fully understand the subject, and the ground taken by the two parties, and I have no fear of the capital the Locos will make out of it.

END OF THE WORLD.—The Editor of the New York Express has favored his readers with deductions from a calculation by which it appears evident that the world will not come to an end before 1950. We breathe more freely. We shall look out anxiously for that time.

Somers' Court Martial.

We learn from the New York Union, that the Court Martial for the investigation of the mutiny proceedings aboard the Somers, assembled on Wednesday at 11 o'clock A. M., on board the North Carolina.

Com. CHAS. STEWART, Pres't. Com. JACOB JONES, Associate. Com. ALEX. J. DALLAS, " OGDEN HOFFMAN.

Special Judge Adv. After administering the oath to the Judge Advocate, the Court proceeded to business by the Judge Advocate's reading the instructions convening the Court, and under which they were to proceed—taking all the evidence and making up a final opinion and reporting the whole to the Secretary of the Navy, &c. &c. &c.

The Court then received from Commander McKenzie, who was then present, a request to have a legal friend present, Mr. Jno. Hone, as his adviser, which was granted. At this period of the proceeding the President of the Court stated that some important official papers had not reached him, which were required for the proceedings, and upon his suggestion the Court adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Mr. McKenzie looked pale and careworn, but seemed very calm and collected. From the appearance of this Court, we doubt not that justice will be done alike to the memory of the dead, and to the reputation of the living.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received in Congress yesterday, from which we have with great haste skinned the following particulars:

The receipts into the Treasury, during the first three quarters of the present year, with the estimated receipts for the fourth quarter, from every source, (including loans and Treasury notes) amount to thirty-four millions, five hundred and two thousand dollars, besides the balance of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars in the Treasury on the first of January last.

The Expenditures for the first three quarters of the year, with the estimated expenditure for the remaining quarter, amount (including \$7,856,400 for the redemption of Treasury notes) to thirty-four millions, five hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

The receipts for the half year ending 1st July next, are estimated (including Treasury notes and loans to amount of \$5,538,000) at \$14,588,113; and the expenditures for the same period (including interest on debt and Treasury notes to amount of \$505,000) at \$10,381,186. The estimates of Receipts and Expenditures for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1844, (under the new arrangement effected by the act of last session) are estimated, the Receipts from customs and public lands and \$150,000 from miscellaneous sources) at \$18,850,000 and the Expenditures (including interest and Treasury notes) at \$20,945,498.

The balance remaining in the Treasury on the 30th June, 1843, is estimated will amount to \$3,731,363, and on the 30th June, 1844, to \$1,635,871.

Since the estimates were prepared at the several Departments, it has been ascertained that the expenditures for the fourth quarter of the present year will fall considerably short of the amount estimated; so that the balance in the Treasury on the 1st January next will be considerably larger than estimated; but, as the difference will become a charge on the Treasury in the next year, it has not been deemed necessary to alter the amount as first estimated.

The recommendations of the report are confined to that of a further provision for revenue and the support of public credit by taxation on untaxed or lightly taxed articles of import; to produce an addition to the present revenue of three millions of dollars a year; an authority to allow interest on all outstanding Treasury notes, as under the last issue thereof; and the establishment of a warehousing system.

Report of the Secretary of War.

This is a very long document, and we have room but to give a synopsis:

A close inspection of the various posts has been made with satisfactory results. In the expenditures of the army a very great reduction has been effected, principally by the cessation of the Florida war, and an economical expenditure. It is confidently believed that the present military establishment of the country, including all the expenses of the military academy of a permanent or contingent character may be maintained at a cost not exceeding \$3,100,000, and the estimates are at that amount.

The number of troops in Florida has been gradually diminished to a sufficiency for protection against the miserable remnant of the Indians, with whom, except a few, arrangements for removal have been made. A strong corps of observation has been kept up about Red River, under General Taylor, in consequence of the Mexican invasion of Texas, and apprehensions relative to the wild tribes of the South-west, and to prevent any attempts to engage in the then coming conflicts.

The whole number of the troops at present is 9847. An act of Congress at last session reduced the rank and file of the army to 3920 men, the reduction is gradually proceeding, and by the beginning of 1844 the prescribed minimum will be reached. It is proposed to allow men

to be recruited who are citizens, or who have taken the initiatory steps to naturalization, as an unprecedented number (388 in little more than a year) have been discharged by the Judges and Courts, principally on the ground that they were aliens.

The number of pensioners on the roll is 25,035, less by 1496 than at the date of the last report, 358 claims on account of revolutionary services, have been presented within the year, and that 22 warrants have been issued for 5,250 acres of land, that 416 claims for services in the last war with Great Britain have been presented within the same time, and that 65 warrants have been issued, for 10,720 acres of land.

It appears that 88,124 Indians have been removed to the regions west of the Mississippi, and the once numerous tribes east of that river less than 25,000 souls remain. The greater portion of these are under treaty obligations to remove within a few years. The time has arrived when we should turn our attention to devising some form of government which may secure peace and order among these sons of the forest, and protection against others.

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy occupies rather more than seven columns in the Madisonian, when the substance of what is said could have been as readily embraced within a third of that limit, and we intend to give it in a still smaller compass.

The report states that the "Home squadron" under Commodore Stewart has been put in commission, mentions the number of vessels composing it, and the cruising ground where they will be employed. The steamships Missouri and Mississippi are pronounced to be unsuited to cruising in time of peace, in consequence of their great consumption of fuel; but would be useful in time of war. The Brazil squadron is under command of Commodore Morris, and in the discharge of its duty. There is no squadron on the African coast, where some of our vessels have been taken and the crews murdered, for which Commodore Ramsey is ordered to demand reparation.

The Secretary recommends a suitable navy, upon some fixed and permanent plan—and that, in order to have officers properly disciplined, the vessels kept as much as possible at sea. He also recommends the establishment of naval schools on shore, for the education of midshipmen and those who are candidates for appointments in the navy—and proposes a system of compulsory furlough, which will compel negligent or unqualified officers to retire from the navy on half pay. This is a doubtful policy, as it would fasten upon the public treasury a set of pensioners who had proven themselves unworthy to be engaged in the public service. If an officer be negligent, or incompetent to perform his duty, we cannot see the propriety of granting him a pension and setting him ashore to do nothing. Pensions should be the reward of services and wounds, and not of idleness or incapacity. We hope that this proposition may fail.

As an encouragement to naval officers it is recommended to establish the ranks of admiral, vice-admiral and rear-admiral. This may be a desirable change.

The Secretary asks for an increase of marines, and states, that a large amount of public property is now exposed to loss and depredation from insufficiency of marines to guard it. The laws to protect ship timbers from destruction he deems inefficient, and rightly considers its preservation of great importance to the country. He recommends the establishment of a navy yard on the largest scale on the waters of the lower Mississippi.

He thinks that the expenses of the navy are much greater than they ought to be, and that mechanical labor is paid for at too high a price. The iron and copper heretofore used have been of inferior quality, but have been greatly improved under the superintendence of professor Johnson, by whom they are tested previous to being used. Great frauds have been practiced in copper, which hereafter will be prevented.

He will in a few days lay before Congress a code of rules and regulations for the navy drawn up in obedience to a resolution of Congress—and invites attention to the laws on the subject of navy pensions, which he thinks require changes and modifications.

The above are all the points in the report which we deem it necessary to notice. On some of them the Secretary has entered into elaborate arguments, which we think it unnecessary to present to the reader;—and, indeed, we are doubtful whether they would be read if given in extenso. It is a great mistake to spin out such documents to a length that induces nineteen out of every twenty persons to lay them aside for "a more convenient season."

The Freeport (Armstrong County) Columbian of the 28th ult. says:

There have been a succession of meetings in the Methodist E. Church, in this borough during the past two weeks, where many zealous efforts were made by the Watchmen on the walls of Zion to storm the battlements of the adversary. They ceased not neither day nor night in striving to persuade men to flee the wrath to come, nor have they plead in vain, for twenty nine persons have already been added to the church, and still the work progresses. When, or where it will stop, we know not.

An act of Justice.

The Chambersburg Repository and Whig, and the York Republican, of late dates, have the following remarks, which coincide with our own views of the subject:

It is stated that the Postmaster General has issued a premonitory order forbidding the carriage of the City Penny Papers out of the Mail on the various Mail routes through the Union. Although we have had no practical obedience to this order in this quarter of the world, (says the York Republican,) we hope that it may have been issued, and that it will be strictly enforced without partiality or preference. In the way in which these things are now managed, the Post Office Department is a burden on the Country Press, while its existence furnishes unwarrantable and unjust advantages to the Penny Papers.—No Country Journal can be transmitted to a subscriber without the payment of postage, but these City ephemera are scattered broad-cast through the interior without paying any tax to the Government, and to the palpable injury of the former class. By this both a public and a private injury is sustained. The circulation of the Country Papers is restricted, and the revenues of the Department are diminished, while the industrious printer of the interior is compelled to sit helpless and see the Government assisting a swarm of flies from the Commercial Cities to devour his very means of subsistence.

The Republican, after indulging in some pretty pointed remarks in reference to the injustice of the grievance complained of, says—

"If, however, from any cause, these arguments are overlooked, and the order of the Postmaster General to which we have referred be either withdrawn or prove a nullity in practice, as it has hitherto in this section, we hope that the present Congress will extend some counterbalancing advantages to the Country Press. If the Penny Papers are to be carried free on the great public thoroughfares, and brought into direct competition with us at our own homes, we ask that the postage be taken off those papers which circulate in the Counties in which they are published, and that they be carried to the Post Offices to which they may be directed without charge. This would be nothing more than what is right and just, and we ask our fellow printers of the interior to back us up in our views, and to bring their influence to bear in favor of our suggestions."

Although we are not conscious of suffering much from the circulation of Penny Papers within our bailiwick, we still feel disposed to back up our friend of York with our views on the subject, which are in entire concurrence with those he has expressed. We can't see that the City Penny Press has any foundation whatever for the privilege claimed for it of circulating their papers through the Country by means which the Country Press may not employ for circulating their issues.—There's no equality in it, besides being in violation of the spirit of the Post Office laws.

We are, however, in favor of such an alteration of the laws and regulations on this subject as would be more fair and equitable in their operation upon different classes of the people, and at the same time not materially diminish the revenue of the department. This might be effected, we think, by, in the first place, greatly restricting, if not entirely abolishing the franking privilege, and allowing public officers, whose salaries will not justify their paying all the postage accruing upon their necessary official correspondence, to have properly attested bills of the same paid out of the public treasury—and, secondly, allow country newspapers to be conveyed, free of postage, to any office within the county in which they are published, to counterbalance the advantage enjoyed by the city dailies under the present system and practice. This, it strikes us, would operate as a bounty for the spread of intelligence and information among the people.

But we have no expectation of seeing any thing very beneficial accomplished on this subject speedily. Members of Congress, &c. find the franking privilege too convenient and advantageous to themselves and friends, to readily assent to its abrogation. They may talk of reform as much as they please, and here and there apply the pruning knife to some petty superfluous, but they are rarely found to favor any reform that would take money out of their own pockets, or restrict them in the enjoyment of the "largest liberty" in using the mails to transport their freight to every point of the compass.

A FACT.—The (Washington, D. C.) True Whig truly remarks, that "during more than forty years, while a National Bank acted as the fiscal agent of the Government, over \$400,000,000 of the public moneys were collected and disbursed by it; without one penny loss to the nation. Since that agent has been dispensed with, and the Safe bank deposit system, and Sub-Treasury principle have been substituted, millions upon millions of the public money have been fraudulently lost to the nation."

The MORMON TEMPLE, at Nauvoo, the most spacious building in Illinois, has been completed. Its cost was rising \$200,000. Joe Smith is now erecting another building on a like scale of cost and splendor, as a public hotel, to be called the "Nauvoo House." The seething exposures of his knavish impostures seem to have very little effect upon his success.

The Commonwealth and the Widow.

What Should the State do?

We some time since suggested the policy on the part of the indebted States, which could not pay the full amount of interest due to their creditors, to pay something, say two, three or four per cent. Why should not Pennsylvania set the example in a work of this kind? It is contended by some of her intelligent citizens, that she can and will ultimately pay every farthing that she owes. Most sincerely do we trust that all this may be speedily verified. Meanwhile, let her do something. Let her manifest a proper disposition by paying what she can. Many of the creditors have been without a dollar, of interest for nearly a year, and their whole dependence has been upon the faith of the State. Two per cent. therefore to such, would be far better than nothing.—A strong case may be mentioned. A German lady some years ago came to this country with a fortune of \$20,000 or \$30,000; and having examined into our modes of life, she determined to pass the remainder of her days here with her family, which at the time consisted of two sons and three daughters, all young and requiring an education. At that time, Pennsylvania character and credit stood deservedly high. The reputation of our State was without a tarnish. Her bonds were eagerly sought and at a premium, while the possibility of her faltering at any future period, was ridiculed as the conception of a madman, as a thing which could never take place. Under these circumstances, the lady in question invested her fortune in the State lives of this Commonwealth, sent her children to school, and looked forward with confidence to her ability to live with ease and in comfort, by the exercise of a proper spirit of economy, at least till her sons should be able to do something for themselves. Thus affairs progressed for several years, the daughters advancing from childhood to girlhood, and mingling in circles of intelligence and respectability.

When the State first faltered, the shock was of course alarming, the widow consulted numerous friends, who assured her that the difficulty would only be momentary, and that it was impossible for a State like Pennsylvania, with such a character and such resources, to violate its faith, except for a brief period. She was then induced to hope for a better condition of things, and prevented from withdrawing her funds, even when she might have obtained a large proportion of the principal. But her whole property being invested in the Commonwealth, she was utterly dependant upon the fidelity of the State, and could only fulfil her engagements, as Pennsylvania redeemed her obligations to her creditors. Thus being unable to obtain funds a year ago, her friends came forward and loaned her small amounts for a time. But the difficulty increased every hour, she found herself getting more and more in debt, until crushed in mind and broken in spirit, her health gave way, and the whole family were affected and distressed by the circumstances we have described. She has now not received a dollar from the State for nearly a year; and but for generous assistance from those who know her well, and who sympathize with her condition, she would have been compelled to sacrifice her little fortune for about one-third of the original sum invested, and invested too, on the faith and in the funds of the Sovereign State of Pennsylvania. Is not this too bad? Is it not utterly disgraceful? And yet the case we have cited, is doubtless one of hundreds greatly similar.—Pa. Eng.

TEXAS MATTERS.—Information was received in this city, says the N. O. Tropic of the 19th ult., yesterday, from Texas, that the divisions in the army of the West had at last ended in an open rupture. About 725 men had withdrawn from the army under the command of Gen. Somervell, had elected William G. Cooke, Colonel, G. I. Howard, Lieut. Colonel, and had taken up their line of march, under the new organization, for Mexico. Gen. Somervell, it will be remembered, was Gen. Houston's man, and the army, finally disgusted with his delays, left his command. His whole force before the division, according to the latest accounts, could not have consisted of more than 1000 men. Col. Cooke, and Lieut. Col. Howard were both attached to the Santa Fe expedition.

We likewise heard yesterday that by the arrival of the British steamer Dee, at Havana, a few days ago, news was brought that on the 24th of November, the new war steamer Montezuma, with 160 men, was at the island of St Thomas, on its way to Mexico, via Havana. The Montezuma is probably with the Mexican fleet by this time, and will prove a very formidable accession. It will be remembered that she carries two sixty-eight, and eight thirty-two pounders—all Paixhan guns.

The Reading Journal, speaking of the silence of our Whig contemporaries on Gov. Porter's previous pardons and other monstrosities, has the following. They are able to defend themselves, therefore, need no aid from us.

Why is it that the greater portion of the Whig papers of Philadelphia have always pursued so truckling a course in regard to Gov. Porter and his acts? What potent influence closes their columns or makes them bludge so very gently? To the Forum we must, however, do the justice to say, that it has always spoken out properly and boldly.