



Huntingdon, Tuesday, December 21, 1847

WHIG DELEGATE MEETINGS AND COUNTY CONVENTION.

THE Democratic Whigs of the several townships and boroughs of Huntingdon county, are requested to assemble at the usual place of holding delegate meetings, on SATURDAY, the 8th of January next, to select two delegates from each to represent said boroughs and townships in a COUNTY CONVENTION, to assemble in the Court House, in the borough of Huntingdon, on Wednesday evening, the 12th of January, for the purpose of electing a delegate to the State Convention to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and to appoint two Conferees to meet those of the other counties of this Congressional district to elect a delegate to the National Convention to nominate a candidate for President of the United States.

By order of the County Committee, A. W. BENEDICT, Chairman.

Our subscribers at Alexandria and Mill Creek, will hereafter receive their papers through the post-office. The irregularity of the stage renders this necessary. It will not be long, however, we hope, until papers will go free again within 30 miles of the place of publication. A movement to this effect has already been made in Congress.

PROWELL'S "Cheap Corner" is again the great centre of attraction, being supplied with a splendid assortment of New Goods, which are offered very cheap. See advertisement.

BANKING.

It is highly probable that some legislation will be had on this important subject, at the approaching session of our State Legislature. The fact is undeniable, that the present banking system in Pennsylvania, is grossly defective; and that the people are subjected thereby to impositions, wrongs and frequent ruin. And the much talked of individual liability is but an aggravation of these evils. Responsible men will not accept Bank charters with this clause in them. The exploded Lehigh Bank has illustrated the individual liability principle, and thousands who have suffered by the frauds of that institution, have learned to their sorrow that that principle is but a specious humbug. Such banks will ever consist of a gang of irresponsible swindlers, (we have one in our eye now that looks a little doughy,) and after the country is flooded with their paper, the banks wind up, and the note-holders find that the fancied security is all "moonshine"—that the individual liability is the liability of men of straw.

But the community have additional reason to be alarmed. In some quarters the project of a Free Banking System is cautiously advocated. This system implies the repeal of our laws against usury, and to open a way to all who have capital or artfulness sufficient to invent a plausible basis, to engage in banking; or in other words, to trade in money as an article of merchandise. If this project ever becomes a law, may the Lord help the poor!

We humbly conceive, however, that an adequate remedy can be invented for the evils alluded to. The general banking law in the State of New York, the details of which we do not fully remember, seems to operate well; and to afford security to all. Let our Legislature pass a similar law, and it will be attended with the same results here. Let the circulation of banks be limited by law, according to the amount of their capital; and a Comptroller or Commissioner be elected by the people, responsible to his constituents and to the Commonwealth, whose duty it shall be to countersign all notes and supervise the transactions and affairs of the banks. We go for wholesome reform in the Banking System. Let the people speak out, and the desirable object can be accomplished.

A WARNING.—The Hon. John C. Calhoun, in a speech made some time ago in the Senate, said, that Mexican Territory was the forbidden fruit of which we must not eat. The day we should eat of that fruit we should surely die as a nation.

We wish all our patrons a merry Christmas.

Lewistown Bank.

The Lewistown Gazette of Saturday last says:—

"Nothing has thus far been elicited to warrant us in giving any opinion as to the value of Lewistown Bank Notes, but from appearances they will not be worth much. In Philadelphia they are freely offered at from 50 to 70 per cent. discount. We have heard it stated that many of the judgments held by the Bank have been assigned to a firm in Philadelphia which has directed them to be collected forthwith, and it is also said that most of the business paper has been transferred to others who last year became security for some loan. Subsequently the Bank made an assignment of its effects to Francis M'Clure, S. S. Woods, (directors) and the Cashier of the Bank of Pennsylvania. These reports we believe to be correct. It is now feared, and not without reason that the "crisis" has yet to come, as these transfers will prevent the payment of debts due the bank in its own notes.—The matter will however be judicially tested.

THE WEATHER.—We were visited by the first snow storm of the season on Thursday night last. The ground was covered to the depth of four or five inches. For several days previous to which the following description of the weather, by the N. Y. Tribune, would have suited this section exactly:

"The weather yesterday was wet, warm, sultry, misty, melting, muddy, vapory, sloppy, disagreeable, thick, cloudy, moist, fickle, damp, foggy, dripping, drizzly, exhausting, unpleasant, intolerable, unhealthy, indescribable and rainy. At noon the sky was clear and bright, but oh what showers we had at night!"

MR. POLK REBUKED.

The New Orleans Delta, a Locofoco paper, thus rebukes Mr. Polk's views of the cause of the War:

We have never concurred in the view embraced by President Polk and his friends, that the real and just cause of this war was the invasion of our territory by the Mexicans. We regard the statement in Mr. Polk's message that American blood had been shed on American soil, as an extravagance—a rhetorical flourish, attributable perhaps, to the excitement of the occasion. The country between the Nueces and Rio Grande never was, in any just sense of the term, Texan or American soil. Texas had claims to it, but those claims were unsettled, unadjudicated. This was not the proper, the real cause of the war. The annexation of Texas was the prime origin of the war.—Mexico had always held out that the consummation of this great measure, which the American people had so emphatically approved, would be the signal, the declaration, in fact, the war. To that determination she proved always consistent, and took every step necessary to strengthen her purpose and declare her design. Annexation was war.

NOTICES.

"NORTH AMERICAN."—We are indebted to our friend, Wm. C. Tobey, Esq., alias "John of York," for copies of his spirited and racy paper published in the city of Mexico, bearing the above title. Tobey's pen has lost none of its former vigor by his trip to the capital of the Aztecs.

Our thanks are also due to Wm. T. Wilson, formerly employed in this office, for several copies of a very interesting little paper, entitled the "Flag of Freedom," published at Puebla. Friend Wilson, we learn, employs his time not occupied in fighting the Mexicans, in assisting in the publication of this paper.

"Godey's Ladies' Book" is increasing in interest with each succeeding number. It well deserves the extended patronage which we are happy to learn it is receiving from the Ladies of the country.

"THE JOHN DONKEY."—The first number of this paper is upon our table; it recommends itself strongly to the patronage of the lovers of fun. The prospectus says that it will be published by an "Association of John Donkeys, who couldn't help it; and who, being afflicted with wisdom, must get rid of some of it or burst." It will be published weekly at \$3 per annum, or six cents per copy. Address G. B. Zeiber, & Co., Philadelphia.

The Lancaster "Union and Tribune" has passed into the hands of G. W. Hamersly, Esq., by whom it has been enlarged and dressed up in an entire new suit. The paper now presents an appearance which accords well with the personal tidy, and indeed handsome, appearance of its gentlemanly proprietor.

CHAPLAINS.—The Rev. Mr. Slicer has been re-elected chaplain to the U. S. Senate, and the Rev. Royal R. Gurley, Presbyterian, was elected in the House over Rev. Mr. Cushman, by 2 majority.

Gen. Taylor in New Orleans.

The grand reception of Major General Taylor took place in New Orleans on the 3d inst. It was magnificent and enthusiastic. When he landed the Mayor invited him to become the guest of the city. General Taylor briefly and appropriately replied. He then proceeded to the Cathedral. Bishop Blane appropriately addressed him; old Rough and Ready made an eloquent reply.

The St. Charles was brilliantly illuminated in the evening. In the front of the gentlemen's parlor was a transparency of General Taylor, in the old brown coat, with the motto, "A Little more grape, Captain Bragg." The dinner, fireworks, visit to the theatres, all passed off splendidly.

On the 4th the presentation of the sword, voted by the Legislature of Louisiana, took place. It was an interesting ceremony. The sword was presented by Governor Johnson, in a long, eloquent and enthusiastic speech. Gen. Taylor made a short and appropriate reply.

Gen. Taylor left on the morning of the 5th, in the steamer Missouri, for Memphis.

Mr. Polk's War.

The last Reading Journal contains several interesting letters from the Artillery company which went to Mexico from that place. Out of one hundred men who left Reading a little more than a year ago, but fifteen were on duty at the last accounts. A letter from Wm. Graeff, jr., dated October 5, says:

"I have a candid opinion that few, if any, will ever return to that lovely spot where once they were wont to roam; but oh! if some of our men could forget that sickness of the heart which too often comes over the exile in his last moments—when he pines for the land of his birth—to breathe once more the air of his childhood, and to lay his head to rest as he did in years gone by—

"The summer sun is flaming high
He from the lattice hangs,
Pines he for home and distant lands
With disappointment's pangs"

And this it is that kills some of our men—home-sickness, and at last they pine to death. Miserable man!—that longs for home and cannot reach it!

You are well aware that we left home with more than an hundred men. We entered the city of Mexico with forty all told! the others having been either discharged or dead, or back in the hospitals. Now you may well think if the Company is as unlucky in returning (besides the war is not over yet) as they were in coming here, then good-bye forever to Old Berks.

A letter from Capt. Loeser, of Oct. 23, states the number then on duty at fifteen.

FROM THE ARMY.

The Washington "Saturday Evening News" has an able correspondent in the Army in Mexico, who, under date of October 26th, writes from the National Bridge, as follows:

"The peace party is very strong in camp; scarcely a soldier here goes in for the continuance of the war, but many are in favor of breaking right short off and holding in possession all we have.

"About the second of next month we shall be on the road to Jalapa, the oft mentioned paradise of Mexicans; but I judge it will be as much of a 'suck in' as some other places. Officers may live well, but soldiers will get their rations.—What pleasure does a hungry man find in looking upon the cloud capped mountain, the deep ravine, and the pretty running brook? At home all we had to do was to go to 'Samuel's Head-Quarters' and say 'dozen fried,' and before we could get entirely ready to eat, a mammoth plate full would be sitting before us, and trimmings to match. Now I am sitting on a big stone, a tin-cup half full of beans, said to be boiled, but as hard as paving stones. We are out here doing nothing but eating old provisions, burnishing rusty guns, wearing out shoes, and taking quinine and ipecac. If some of the men had their way, the celebrated 'Halls of the Montezumas' would be in a place where the heat would prevent any one from revelling very extensively. However, this little band will stand to it, whatever may be ahead for us, our motto being, 'Nil desperandum.'"

The Whigs of Juniata county held a meeting on the 6th instant, at which spirited resolutions on public affairs were adopted. E. P. Thompson was appointed Representative Delegate to the State Convention; James Patterson recommended as the Senatorial Delegate; and James M. Sellers and John P. Shitz appointed conferees to select a delegate to the National Convention from this congressional district.

DROWNED.—We learn from the Lewistown Gazette that Mr. James McMullen, of Allegheny township, Cambria county, was drowned in the Juniata, near Clark's Ferry, during the recent high water while attempting to pass a part of the road which was overflowed at the time.—The man, horse and buggy went into the current together and were swept away by its resistless force.

The Disposition of the Mexicans.

All accounts seem to indicate, too clearly the dogged obstinacy of the Mexicans to yield to force. In several quarters we have seen statements to this effect, which are fully borne out by the following representation of the Washington correspondent of the Daily Sun:

The officers who have arrived in this city, from Mexico, within the last few days, do not encourage the hope of a speedy termination of the war. They represent the general disposition of the Mexican people as decidedly hostile to us, ready to break out into acts of violence, whenever an opportunity may be offered by the withdrawal of our troops. But as the President announces that we ought to retain all the cities, towns and forts, of which we have taken, or may take possession, there is little chance of such opportunity being offered to them. The officers who have just left the army, also assure me that the full extent of the sufferings of our army is not at all comprehended by us. The privations to which they have been subjected by the negligence of the departments, have caused great dissatisfaction throughout the ranks. The scarcity of money has been frequently referred to: But it has operated with great severity on the volunteers, who have been accustomed to enjoy the comforts of life, and are less fitted than regular soldiers, to endure privations. There are always groups of men following the camp, ready to furnish money, but the terms they exact are so ruinous that only men in the last stage of desperation can be found to accept them.

A LOCOFOCO VIEW OF MR. POLK.—The "John of York" correspondent of the North American, WILLIAM C. TOBEY, Esq., after soundly berating Mr Polk for his manner of conducting the war in a letter dated Puebla, June 11, 1847, says:

"Let not my brother democrats, who have not yet discovered who James K. Polk is, cavil that I handle him like a true Locofoco, without gloves. I do not know a democrat is the whole army regular or volunteer, who does not execrate the man and his war measures. Should it ever be the privilege of us here to cast our votes again for a President of our republic, I am inclined to think that we shall require more than the *ipse dixit* of a Baltimore convention to control our suffrages. For myself I shall go with the old toper who could not be fooled with a choice beverage, which his landlord said was 'bran new whiskey, and none of your old stinking stuff, twenty years old.' I shall take the twenty years old proof in preference to another 'new man.'"

An officer of the Pennsylvania Regiment thus speaks of the gallant Capt Walker, whose intimate friend he was:—

"I wish to give you Captain Walker's character. He was a carpenter, and one of the most unassuming and feeling men that I ever came across, with the highest notions of right, and not the fire-eater that people suppose at home. He had more feeling for those poor Mexicans than any officer I have seen in the army; and he would not allow one of his men to impose on them with impunity. He said they were already ground down enough by their rulers, and it was a pity to oppress them more. He never exercised any of his summary justice upon them, that you see in the papers; and the only instance in which he shot any prisoners since he landed at Vera Cruz, was at Santa Fe, when he caught a parcel of them who had murdered some Americans who had been left sick on the road, and shot six of them. He reported it immediately on his arrival, to Gen. Scott, who told him that he had done perfectly right."

A military writer in the London Morning Chronicle, speaking of the hostilities in Switzerland, expresses himself somewhat as follows:

The war in Switzerland will be a bloody one, and the officers will fare the worst. As sharpshooters, the Swiss are unrivalled in the world, and few of them will miss their man at 500 yards; from his childhood the Swiss is accustomed to handle the heavy rifle of the country. At the skirmish on the St. Gothard, the two first men picked off were the officers in command. The chamois hunter fires at the chamois as soon as he can distinguish the animal's horns, and rarely misses his aim. A Swiss, from habit, never fires without taking deliberate aim.

THE SECOND PENNA. REGIMENT.—Lieut. Rankin, of the 2d Pennsylvania Regiment, in a letter to some friends at Pittsburg, mentions the ravages which war has made in that regiment. Of 900 men who left Pittsburg but one year ago, 300 cannot now be mustered.

WHIG TRIUMPH IN SAVANNAH.—This was achieved last Monday by the election of Dr. H. BURROUGHS for Mayor, by a majority 239, an increase of 97 over last year, and the election also of an entire Board of Alderman by about 230 majority.

The Baltimore American very justly remarks that the ultimate subjugation of Mexico by the United States is so palpably the policy of the Executive, that without the recognition of this idea the message becomes nonsense.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The standing committees of the two Houses have been announced. The following are the chairmen of the most important committees in the House of Representatives:

- Mr. Vinton, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.
- Joseph R. Ingersoll, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary.
- Andrew Stewart, chairman of the Committee on Manufactures.
- Truman Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Botts, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.
- Mr. Farrelly, Chairman of the Committee on Patents.
- Mr. Nes, Chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions.
- The Chairmen of the principal Committees in the Senate are as follows:
- On Foreign Relations—Mr. Sevier.
- Finance—Mr. Atherton.
- Commerce—Mr. Dix.
- Manufactures—Mr. Dickinson.
- Military Affairs—Mr. Cass.

In the Senate on Tuesday Mr. Dickinson submitted the following resolutions: Resolved, That true policy requires the government of the United States to strengthen its political and commercial relations upon this continent, by the annexation of such contiguous territory as may conduce to that end, and can be justly claimed, and that neither in such acquisitions nor in the territorial organization thereof, can any conditions be constitutionally imposed, or institutions be provided for or established inconsistent with the right of the people thereof, to form a free Sovereign State with the powers and privileges of the original members of the confederacy.

Resolved, That in organizing a territorial government in territory belonging to the United States, the principles of self-government, upon which our Federal system rests, will be best promoted; the true spirit and meaning of the Constitution be observed, and the confederacy strengthened by leaving all questions concerning the domestic policy therein to the legislatures chosen by the people thereof.

The above resolutions indicate the course of the administration party in Congress on the subject of the war, annexation, extension of Slavery, &c.—These are to be the great questions of the Session, and the sooner they are agitated the better.

Mr. CALHOUN offered the following resolutions in the Senate on Wednesday, which were ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That to conquer and hold Mexico, either as a province, or by incorporating it into the Union, is inconsistent with the avowed object of the War, contrary to the settled policy of the government, in conflict with its character and genius, and in the end must be subversive of all our free and popular institutions.

Resolved, That no line of policy in the further prosecution of the war should be adopted which may tend to consequences so disastrous.

On the same day Mr. Holmes offered a resolution in the House, in favor of peace with Mexico.

A message from the President was received and read, giving his reasons for vetoing the River and Harbor Bill of the last session, which gave rise to some debate.

These are the principal matters of interest that have occurred thus far in either House. The proceedings will increase in interest, as the session progresses.

The Doylestown (Bucks county) Democrat, a rank federal locofoco sheet, of the darkest die and most depraved principles, heads an article criticising Mr. Clays speech as follows—"The last great struggle of the Kentucky Gambler."

Thirty-four hands in the slaughtering establishment of Messrs. Hand & Pattison, at Cincinnati, killed and dressed, in three successive days last week, 3,424 Hogs.

The editor of the Boston Atlas, writing from Washington, contradicts "on reliable authority," the statement that Mr. Adams is in favor of the acquisition of all Mexico. There is no foundation for the rumor.

Our friend of the Lewistown Gazette is becoming facetious over the failure of the Bank. He says: "The Bank break is the biggest break of all, not only from its extent, but the fact that it cannot be repaired."

Mayor Quincy, the regular whig candidate, was re-elected Mayor of Boston last week, by a majority of 613 over Natives, Locos, and Independent Whigs combined! Good!

Some of the enthusiastic citizens of New Orleans being desirous of having a memento of General Taylor, contented themselves, in the absence of more personal articles, with pulling hairs out of the main of "Old Whitey," the General's famous war horse. The poor animal was in considerable danger of being shorn of his flowing honors.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The report of Mr. Marcy, the Secretary of War, is too long for us to publish in full, and as it is chiefly occupied with a detail of the movements of the army in Mexico—with which our readers are familiar—it is not at all necessary that we should do so. A brief synopsis will give the general reader all the information of its contents, which he may desire.

The force employed in the prosecution of the war, is set down at 48,536—of which 21,509 are regulars. This force is distributed as follows:

With Maj. General Scott, and belonging to his column, including the troops en route, at Tampico, at and about Vera Cruz, and on the line thence to his headquarters, the aggregate force is estimated at 32,156. With Maj. Gen. Taylor, at the several posts under his immediate command, it is about 6,727. In Santa Fe, and on the Oregon and Santa Fe routes, and in the Indian country, there are about 3,634.

The force in the Californias is about 1019, including 200 now on the way to that country.

There are no means in the department of calculating the deductions which ought to be made for sickness, disability and other casualties; but the effective force is considerably below the foregoing estimates.

The Secretary then gives a detail of the operations of the Army in Mexico proper, after the capitulation of Monterey, up to the capture of the city of Mexico, including the several skirmishes which have taken place subsequently. The capture of the city of Mexico is declared to be a memorable action—and the subsequent defence of the garrison at Puebla by Col. Childs, and the battle of Huamantla are spoken of in terms of high and deserved praise.

Then is given an account of the operations in California and in New Mexico, and the remainder of the report is devoted to an account of the general affairs of the department, and a discussion of the question of how the war should be henceforward prosecuted. Mr. Marcy is not in favor of the defensive line policy—nor is he in favor of the occupation of the whole of Mexico—but he is in favor of what is about the same thing, "to retain what we now possess, open the lines of communication into the interior, and extend our operations to other important places, as our means and the prospect of advantages shall indicate—keeping a disposable force always ready—within approaching limits, to annoy the enemy, to seize supplies, enforce contributions, and frustrate his efforts to collect means and assemble troops for the purpose of protracting the war."

"This plan," he says, "also contemplates further acquisitions extending to other important points, more or less numerous, as circumstances may warrant." There is no difference, except in words, between this proposition which the Secretary advocates and of overrunning all Mexico and holding it in military subjection—and, indeed, the only means of effecting the latter object would be to adopt the plan he proposes.

Post Master General's Report. The following interesting Post Office Statistics are from the Report of the Post Master General:

Revenue received during the year,	\$3,945,892
Expenditures during the year,	3,979,570
Excess of receipts this year over the last, (of 13 15-00 per cent.)	458,699
Delinquencies of the year,	33,677
Letter postage received during the year,	3,254,519
Number of letters passing through the Mail,	62,173,460
Free letters annually,	5,000,000
Newspapers annually,	55,000,000
Pamphlets "	2,000,000
Dead Letters "	1,800,000
Post Routes, "	183,818
Annual transportation, miles,	38,087,898
Receipts by Mail for two years,	7,360,000

Of the amount due in this time, the delinquencies are only \$21,948, and the delinquents 154. Postmasters of an aggregate number of fifteen thousand one hundred and forty-six. The Postmasters changed during the year number 3450.

The Postmaster General, in the course of his Report, recommends that newspapers be taxed by weight, and enters upon a grave argument in defence of the absurd position. He also takes great credit to himself for the success of the cheap Postage system, though one of the warmest opponents of the original bill. The report will lead to a further reduction of Postage, and to a uniform rate of five cents, and bye-and-bye to a postage of cents which will pay, in time, every necessary expense.

A TERRIBLE ENGINE OF WAR.—Mr. Wesson, of Hartford, Connecticut, has made some satisfactory experiments with his seven calibre rifle which he invented for the use of the army. It fired seven balls at a single discharge, and threw them with about double the force of the common rifle. At the distance of forty rods he placed two of the seven balls in a nine-inch target. The balls scatter to the distance of about three feet in forty rods. The experiments were made in the presence of Mr. Bragg, Government inspector of arms.

This is beyond all doubt the most destructive weapon ever invented; and an army well provided with them, and a good supply of Colt's Revolving Pistols, could easily cut up almost any force of an enemy. Mr. Wesson discharged thirty-five balls in one minute and ten seconds.