

# THE JOURNAL



HUNTINGDON, PENN'A :  
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1848.

## FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER : NER MIDDLESWARTH.

**THE RAILROAD LETTING.**—The 39 sections of the Pennsylvania Railroad put under contract in this place last week have been allotted at prices somewhat higher than those put under contract at former lettings. A list of the successful bidders will be found in another column.

On Sunday a heavy thunder storm passed over this place. The peals of thunder were truly terrific. Several trees in the neighborhood of the town were struck by lightning.

It will be perceived that General Scott is on his way to New York. The New Yorkers will prepare to welcome him by a rousing reception when the ship which bears "Caesar and his fortunes" arrives. We would give something to be on the spot to help to greet the brave, but persecuted veteran.

The U. S. Senate, it is said, have confirmed the nominations of General Twiggs and Wool, as Brevet Major Generals; Col. Churchill, as Brevet Brigadier General; Captains Washington and Bragg, and Major Thomas, as Brevet Lieutenant Colonels.

The Locofocos met in National Convention, in Baltimore, yesterday, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President.

The trial of Charles Langfeldt, charged with the murder of Mrs. Rademacher, commenced in Philadelphia on Monday the 15th inst. The defence offered no testimony. The jury retired on Thursday evening, and on Friday morning returned with a verdict finding the prisoner "guilty of murder of the first degree."

A tremendous hail-storm visited a portion of Butler county in this State on Saturday, 6th inst. Many of the hail stones were larger than a hen's egg. Much damage was done to the fruit, grain, and window glass.

A PETRIFIED Indian child has been found at Gaernsey, Ohio. Around the neck was a row of Indian beads matted.

The accounts of the mortality of our army in Mexico, are frightful. It is stated upon the authority of General Twiggs, that the deaths amount to a regiment a month, and this is only the opening of the vomito season, or rather of the time when its ravages begin to be serious.

The Louisville Journal says:—Mr. Crittenden introduced a bill into the U. S. Senate to prevent the interference of the office-holders of the General Government in elections. The Locofoco editor of the Bowling Green Argus describes it as "a gag bill to stifle debate and muzzle the press."

A great conflagration occurred at Detroit, on the 12th inst. Three hundred buildings were burned, from three to four hundred families rendered homeless, and a loss of two to three hundred thousand dollars incurred.

**PASSAGE OF THE WISCONSIN BILL.**—The House Bill making Wisconsin a State of the Union, passed on Thursday. This gives us the thirtieth State, as there is no doubt it will also pass the Senate.

A DISTINGUISHED PRISONER.—The Delaware County Republican furnishes its readers with an amusing sketch of a "militia training" that was to have come off at Chester, on Tuesday, the 8th inst. The "citizen soldiers" were all upon the ground, when upon some pretext or other the Brigade Inspector, with a portion of his staff, were induced to visit an unoccupied room in the jail—we believe to judge of its fitness for an armory. While in the room, some wicked wag turned the key upon the "officials," and they were kept in "durance vile" until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. When they were released, the "nation's bulwark" had returned to their homes, and the "pomp and circumstance of glorious war" which was to have astonished the natives was postponed to a "more convenient season."

**SCOTT'S RETURN.**—A Telegraphic dispatch from New Orleans to the Charleston News, says that on his departure from Vera Cruz, and in reply to the greetings of the Americans present, he replied in substance, as follows:

I go ashore at the Narrows, below New York, and proceed, without entering that city, to my family in Elizabethtown. Laboring under the public displeasure of the Executive, it would be highly improper in me, a soldier, to put myself in the way of provoking shouts and cheers from my warm-hearted countrymen.

The American Star, of the 22d ult., in announcing his intended departure from the capital, says:

It is painful to reflect that he returns home, after his brilliant and unsurpassed achievements, under the circumstances in which he does. No other commander we verily believe, could have marched from Vera Cruz to this capitol, with so small a force, and such signal success.

He has given the army possession of the imperial city of the Aztecs and indeed of the Republic. No officer is more endeared to the army, and the absence of none could be more deeply regretted. There are many who are attached to Gen. Scott as to a brother or a father, and there will be wet eyes when he leaves. What a reception will not the great Captain of the age meet in his progress to Washington. We believe his fame will grow brighter at every step of the investigation, which is to be renewed at Washington! It cannot be otherwise, and the day is not remote when even his few revilers and enemies will acknowledge the lofty preeminence of the Conqueror of Mexico!"

**ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL WAR THREATENED.**—The President has communicated to the Senate, in answer to a call of that body, copies of certain despatches from the Navy Department to our Naval Officers. The National Intelligencer says—The following extract from one letter addressed to Commodore Perry since the Senate has had the Yucatan question under debate, will show what designs are not only meditated, but are even about being carried into execution, with the obvious intent, without the consent of Congress, to involve this country in a fresh war, on the ground of a supposed continental duty or necessity on the part of the Executive:

"While the United States are engaged in a war with Mexico, the actual presence, without our consent, of the armed force of a neutral power within the territory of our enemy, co-operating with any portion of the Mexican people in military operations, [even assisting the Yucatanese to resist the Indians, we suppose,] cannot be permitted. Such a state of things, it is hoped will not occur. If you should have reason to believe that it will, you will communicate it without further delay, that THE PRESIDENT may take such measures as his constitutional duty will require at his hands."

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.**—Fatal accidents occur on the Portage Railroad this season with shocking frequency. On Monday last a passenger in the Emigrant train, contrary, as we understand, to the advice of the conductor, attempted to walk up Plane 7, starting in advance some distance of the cars. Seeking to avoid the ascending Cars he stepped on to the descending track, and ere aware of his danger he was prostrated by descending cars and crushed to death in an awful manner. We have not learned his name, but understand his family was with him.—*Hollidaysburg Register.*

**SUPPRESSION OF THE JESUITS.**—A letter dated Rome, April 1, to an English paper, says:

"Amid the clash of arms and the din of European tumult, a silent but significant event has just taken place here, which in other times would have claimed a full page in contemporary annals. The Society of the Jesuits has been finally ordered to quit the Capital of the Catholic World, and their colleges suppressed, and their headquarters removed, with general and staff, out of Rome. Where they will next set up their central banner, is a puzzle. Not in Italy, most assuredly, every one of the various states of the peninsula having shown marvellous unanimity in considering them the agents of Austria and the foes of freedom. Yesterday cardinal Castrane received the orders of Pius IX, to communicate to General Roothaan (an honest Fleming) the decision of his Holiness; to the effect, that they must march bag and baggage out of this city, and giving him and his associates reasonable delay to pack up. The vast property which had fallen into the hands of the society for the last thirty years, during which they had the undisputed control over the consciences of the rich and noblest of the land, is to be now transferred to the administrative capacity of Cardinal Vizzarelli.

**Blue Ruin.**—On the 2d inst, in New York city, 3,780 taverns and excise licensed expiring in that city, all to be renewed at \$10 each, making a premium to the city of \$37,800 for the privilege of vending blue ruin, misery and disgrace. Horrible!

### THE VETO POWER.

The Whig idea of the Veto Power, and of the proper time to exercise it, has always differed from the theory, that what calls itself "democracy" attached to that power. Whigs would not expect even their President to veto the mere legislative measures of a democratic Congress,—although they might not like them. The Representatives of the People are elected to exercise their discretion as to internal improvements, a tariff, a currency; and the Whig idea is, that the will of the People, as expressed by Congress should be, if not clearly unconstitutional, the law of the land. The democratic idea, (just the reverse,) seems to be that Congress is to represent the Executive and that there is the greatest danger lest the people should not be so wise as the one man Executive is,—in short the democratic idea seems to be, that the Executive is the Government, and not the House of Representatives, Senate and Executive together!

As to the Tariff, the People will have Protection in all things essential to them if the Executive will let them alone,—but if a majority of them wish not to be protected, there is no reason why the Executive should interpose his will and wisdom against the will of those whose votes created him. But for the interposition of Executive influence, Pennsylvania, always a Protective Tariff State by its great coal and iron interests, would have secured sufficient protection to the country even for a Free Trade President, if all the whole power and patronage had not been devoted to corruption and overrule the popular will.

As regards a National Bank, the people just now do not want one,—but if they did, there is no reason why their will should not be gratified. What right has one man happening to be the executive to set up his will against the whole of the people, and that too in a matter of dollars and cents?

The Veto power is a useful and necessary power in the Constitution, if wielded only in a conservative manner, and in flagrant cases of violating the fundamental law, or temporally, to arrest an inadvertence in Congress. It was given to the Executive mainly to protect himself from other branches of the Government. But the "democracy" of the country has used, or justified the use of it, for very light causes, and several times (vide the pocket vetoes,) in the most objectionable forms. The veto of Mr. Polk upon the act of Congress providing for the French claims prior to 1800, was cruel, and in spirit, utterly unconstitutional. His vetoes of River and Harbor Improvements have all been at variance with the popular will, and in defiance of what the framers of the Constitution intended, being merely arbitrary exercises of a prerogative, because he has the prerogative.

"Democracy" thus we see in the United States presenting the singular spectacle of defending and justifying the prerogatives and monarchical features of our Government; while all over Europe, a more real and true democracy is in arms against Executives, Monarchs and Prerogatives!—*New York Express.*

**THE REVOLUTION IN HAYTI.**—The New Orleans Picayune of the 12th conveys intelligence that a most sanguinary war has again broken out in Hayti. The black population have determined to have the constitution of 1816 restored, which is opposed by the mulattoes. The blacks are the most numerous, and are joined by the army.

The Courier contains the following extract from a letter to a commercial house:

Hayti has again been the scene of bloodshed and murders. We learn that the brigantine Queen Victoria, (of Trinidad) Captain Tucker, from Port au Prince, bound to Hamburg, with a cargo of coffee, &c., put into Morant Bay on Thursday last to purchase stores, as none could be procured at Port au Prince in consequence of the state of affairs at that place; and that Captain Tucker reports that he has brought despatches from the British Consul there to Com. Bennet, on this station, requesting that a vessel of war should be immediately sent to Port au Prince, where a serious disturbance had taken place—a large number (some say upwards of a hundred) of the colored population having been massacred by their black brethren. The cause of this outbreak has not been fully mentioned, but it is said that the lives of the people of color were daily sacrificed in large numbers. This determination on the part of the blacks to exterminate the browns had been brewing for a long time, in fact since the tyrant Loulouve has been president; and it is now being realized with a vengeance that none but savages would be guilty of committing.

The Commodore, we understand, has been unable to comply with the requisition of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Port au Prince; there not being a single vessel of war at Port Royal at this moment, excepting the guard and store ships, which are useless in their present condition.

**Blue Ruin.**—On the 2d inst, in New York city, 3,780 taverns and excise licensed expiring in that city, all to be renewed at \$10 each, making a premium to the city of \$37,800 for the privilege of vending blue ruin, misery and disgrace. Horrible!

It has been said that we can have no possible cause for alarm, but who can tell what a moment might produce! The present outbreak in Hayti, where the presence of a man of war to protect British interests would be of much service, is a sufficient proof why Port Royal should not be as she is—deserted at least one available vessel of war to be used in cases of emergency. Who knows how many innocent beings have by this time been sacrificed to a merciless mob; who, had protection been afforded by one of her Majesty's vessels, would have been enabled to save themselves and their families from the general massacre which, we are told, was going on in that unfortunate country.

The Alarm, Daring and Vixen are, it is said, cruising off the island of Cuba, and it is not known when they will return to Port Royal.

We hope when this intelligence reaches England, that the Admiralty will see the necessity of having a larger number of vessels of war on this station than at present. England seems, as has been said truly, to have forgotten her colonies, and evidently cares little or nothing about their prosperity when she leaves them so unprotected and at the mercy of other nations.

[From the West Chester Record.]

### EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT.

**Chester County Bank Robbery—The Matamoras arrest explained—Mysterious disappearance of Hitchcock, the drover, accounted for.**

The following details are extraordinary but not the less true. It will be remembered that about a month ago, a Philadelphia paper published a statement that a man had been arrested at Matamoras, Mexico upon a charge of robbing the President of the Chester County Bank, and that a large amount of Chester county notes was found about him—the statement made the sum \$40,000. The Police of Philadelphia, and the Bank of Chester County, were fully aware of the facts of the arrest; but it was not until now deemed proper to publish them as the whole subject was not, until late information, made intelligible.

Some time after the robbery was advertised in Texas, a gentleman at Galveston heard of a person who was engaged in purchasing mules along the Rio Grand, and making payment in Chester County notes. The circumstances excited weighty suspisions; and pursuit was made, with a determination to arrest the operators at all hazards. The dealer was arrested; but he turned out to be only the agent of another person, who was at Matamoras. The agent acknowledged that he had been paying Chester Co. money, and that the person who employed him had a considerable quantity of the same kind.—This made suspicion stronger than ever, and the gentlemen from Galveston immediately set out for Matamoras. Here they found the man who employed this agent to buy mules, and who gave his name as Harrison. This was sometime in February or March last.

Harrison was taken into custody and his effects were searched. He was found to be in possession of eleven Chester County Bank Bills—each of the denomination of \$100, and it was known that he had got rid of several others. These evidences of guilt were considered so strong, that Harrison was taken in custody, to await a trial, having narrowly escaped without lynching, in that distant quarter where summary justice is meted out under martial law. Such was his imminent peril that, to clear himself from punishment, he voluntarily made a confession which, being corroborated by other facts, substantiated his allegations of innocence of the robbery, but involves him in another high misdemeanor; and at the same time clears up a very mysterious tragedy which (it was supposed) had been enacted in this vicinity, and which at the time created no little excitement.

It will be remembered that some time last fall, a drover named Hitchcock, was suddenly missing from Philadelphia. He went to that city from Chatham, in Chester County; having sold, at the latter place, a drove of cattle, to Mr. Geo. W. LeFevre, and obtained the money. It appears that the money (amounting to \$1700 or \$1800) was borrowed by Mr. L. from the Bank of Chester County, and was paid principally in \$100 notes on that Bank. Well, Hitchcock disappeared—mysteriously—and never was heard of afterwards. His wife, who resided in Ohio, came on in search of her husband, in deep distress; but obtained no tidings. He was supposed to be dead. A body was found in the Delaware, of a person who had been drowned; but it was not the body of her husband. She returned to her home, unsatisfied and disconsolate. Her husband had been robbed—he was surely murdered!

A young man of high respectability, from Delaware county, had been seen in company with Hitchcock at the theatre or the Baltimore cars. He was the last person seen with him. He was on his way South—to Charleston or some other point. Suspicion fell upon this young man, that he had made way with the drover, for the sake of his money. After the lapse of a month, he returned to Philadelphia. Hearing himself charged with the abduction or murder of Hitchcock, he delivered himself up to the police of that city—he established his innocence, and was acquitted. Here the

matter rested. The occurrence was almost forgotten—Hitchcock has not been heard of since his disconsolate wife, and various creditors to whom he was largely indebted, never expecting to hear from him more.

Here we resume the history of *Harrison*, the Matamoras mule drover. Finding himself roughly handled, and about to be transported to the North, he made an honest confession of how he came by the Chester County notes. He stated that Harrison was an assumed name; that his real name was J. W. Hitchcock—that on or about the 28th of August, 1847, he obtained the money from G. W. LeFevre of Chatham, Chester county—that he got the money in *Chester county notes*, and—that he was guilty of misconduct, which he did not like to acknowledge, but for which he was absquatulated!

Doubtless this story is true. What an extraordinary concatenation of events. Hitchcock, though in possession of so large an amount of the suspicious money, proves himself innocent, and at the same time pleads guilty to another, scarcely less atrocious act! The mysterious disappearance of the Ohio drover, which for this robbery might never have been fathomed, has been unraveled! A young man, of high respectability, suspected and examined on the foul charge of murder, has been vindicated!

This narration is due as a single act of justice to those who may have been suspected of the high crime of murder—to the absconding drover, and to the community, who will see the necessity of being more and more on their guard against touching the stolen notes of the Bank of Chester county.

Acqueduct Destroyed.

We understand that the State Acqueduct over the Allegheny river at Freeport, 28 miles above Pittsburg, was destroyed by fire on the night of May 12th, inst. The Transportation Lines have chartered steamers to convey goods and passengers across the stream, so that no interruption in the travel or transportation of merchandise will take place.

The Board of Canal Commissioners was hastily summoned together by Telegraphic despatches, on the receipt of the above news; and arrangements at once made to rebuild the structure. Mr. Power started yesterday for Freeport.

The country never looked more beautiful than now. The lawns and fields, and meadows and pastures, have donned their richest vernal costume, the flowers are blossoming in the gardens, and filling the air with their fragrance, the trees are clothing themselves with leaves, and vigorously putting forth their blossoms. The season thus far promises an abundance of fruit, and there is a flattering prospect that the labors of the farmer will be rewarded. —*Boston Journal.*

**VIRGINIA.**—The Whigs of Fauquier county resolved that they are persuaded that HENRY CLAY, and not General Taylor, is their choice, and that of Virginia, for the Presidency.

Gerrit Smith, upon receiving a copy of a pretended neutral paper, ordered it to be discontinued for the following very excellent reasons:—"I wish to read no paper that is neutral in politics. Neutrality in politics is, with me, neutrality in religion and neutrality towards God."

**OHIO.**—The Whigs of the 21st Congressional District, appointed NEWTON GURM, Esq. Delegate to the Whig National Convention. His first choice is Corwin, his next Scott.

**MICHIGAN.**—The Whigs of Kalamazoo county have expressed their preference for HENRY CLAY.

**A Mobile paper says that at a recent exhibition of the model artists in that city, the audience wound up the performance by tearing the benches to pieces.**

**The authorities of Norfolk, Va. are affecting an arrangement with a Boston company to light that city with gas.**

**The Steyermakers are at Cincinnati.—They'll play the knits out of the pigs' tails.**

**It is said that bleeding a partially blind horse at the nose, will restore him to sight—so much for the horse; to open a man's eye you must bleed him in the pocket.**

**Pickpockets are plenty in Philadelphia at this time, and a number of pockets have been emptied. Persons who have money ought to be careful with it, and keep a look out for these scoundrels.**

**The wheat crops of Virginia never presented a finer appearance than at present.**

**HAIL fell in considerable quantities at Charleston, S. C., on Tuesday, 2d inst.**

**The wheat crops of Illinois are very promising.**

**One dollar bills on the Dayton Bank, altered to five dollars are said to be in circulation.**

**We praise men for fighting," says a caustic writer, "and punish children for doing the same thing."**

**The gold medals voted by Congress to Gen. Taylor have been struck; they weigh eight ounces each, are very beautiful and have appropriate inscriptions.**

### HUNTINGDON PREPARED TO RATIFY!

In pursuance of notice, a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Whigs convened at the House of Alex. Carmon, on Tuesday evening, in this borough.

The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed in the meeting—willingness to forget self, and lose sight of personal preferences in the great national issues involved in the approaching contest. A spirit of enthusiasm and compromise, was the order of the evening, which indicated, beyond doubt, that in the hour of battle the Whigs of Huntingdon county will be found at their posts, true to their duty, and standing fast by the nominee of the Whig National Convention, be he who he may.

On motion, DAVID SNARE, Esq. was chosen President; WM. STEEL, A. W. BENEDICT, WM. ROTHROCK and ALEX. CARMON, Esqrs., Vice Presidents; WM. H. Peightal and A. H. Clarke, Secretaries.

On motion of Col. A. K. Cornyn, a committee was appointed to draft Resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The chair appointed A. K. Cornyn, John McCahan, Peter Swoope, Edward Summers, John Flennier and Thomas Fisher, said committee.

The committee, after an absence of a few moments, reported the following resolutions:

**Resolved,** That we have full confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the Whig National Convention which will meet in Philadelphia on the 7th day of June next, to place in nomination candidates for President and Vice President; and that we, as Whigs willing to lay aside, if needs be, any mere personal predilections for men—are prepared to join heart and hand in ratifying and confirming their decision, knowing that their cause is our cause, and their triumph our triumph.

**Resolved,** That it is of the utmost importance that the nominations to be made by said convention, meet with a hearty and enthusiastic reception from the Whigs throughout the county; and that this meeting appoint fifty delegates to represent this county in the Whig Ratification Convention, to be held on the 7th and 8th of June, in Philadelphia.

**Resolved,** That success in the approaching contest is of vital importance to the whole country; and that it is the duty of the Convention about to assemble, to weigh well the question of availability, giving us a man who, while true to the cardinal doctrines of the Whig Party, can unite in his support a majority of the people.

On motion of James Clark, **Resolved,** That any persons throughout the county, who may be willing to go to the Convention, will send in their names to A. K