BY ROBERT WHITE MIDDLETON. EDITOR, FUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

"I WISH NO OTHER HEBALD, NO OTHER SPEAKER OF MY LIVING ACTIONS, TO KEEP MINE HONOR FROM CORRUPTION."-SHAKS.

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[WHOLE NO. 281.

BIOGRAPHICAL. SKETCH OF THE OF

JOSEPH RITNER.

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them on the stage of action, the means by grew strong enough to attend school.

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and prudent man. When Joseph was about 1 father at least half of his carnings, to assist whole career be mingled among them and not long remain unknown to his neighbours, the other routes; but because I am in favor of making three yearsold, his parents removed to War. this in maintaining a family of small children acted with them; there cannot be in his bo- who frequently availed themselves of his Board of Canal Commissioners as the most favorable wick township, in Lancaster county, and LIFE, CHARACTER AND PUBLIC SERVICES Conestogn, near Carpenter's mill. In this contented, until May, 1802, when he mar-

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fixed their residence on the banks of the Contented, until May, 1902, when he mar-residence on the banks of the Contented, until May, 1902, when he mar-vicinity they continued to dwell during the removed from east of Carlisle to the neigh-mained in the county. It was here that Jo-borhood of Newville. He was uniformly the side of his country against foreign insults the State Legislature, where he quickly the state the family and agression. He had been drafied in distinguished himself by his ability and apt-tioned to the removed from east of Carlisle to the content of the western trade, which is still the side of his country against foreign insults the State Legislature, where he quickly in advocating the still as being how with great kindness and affection, so and aggression. He had been drafied in distinguished himself by his ability and apt-tioned to the removed from east of Carlisle to the meret. I do not with rener the distinguished himself by his ability and apt-tioned to the removed from and internal Improvements. I do greater part of the time that the family re- removed from cast of Carlisle to the neigh-To trace the rise and progress of individe seph, when of suitable age, acquired the rul treated with great kindness and a ffection, so uals, who, by native strength of mind and diments of an english education, under the that few, even of the neighbors, knew that the force of their own merits, emerged from tuition of Jacob Carpenter, who was then he was a hired boy, until he reached his obscurity into public notice and securad gen, well known and is yet remembered as a eighteenth year, when he was eurolled in the eral esteem and respect by their abilities and teacher, in a large section of the county.— militua. He at all times enjoyed free and services, is at all times an interesting and But long before this period the young pupil welcome access to good society in the viciniinviting employment. The aniversal preverevinced a disposition and desire to learn, ty of his abode; and the young people of the alence of this curiosity respecting the earlier and by his application and progress gave best classes ever evinced a fondness for his personal history of distinguished men, has proof at once of his capacity for mental im- company, treating him with the cordiality given to biographical sketches and memoirs provement, and that he possessed the dili- and respect which his amenity of manners, that attractiveness and popularity which gence and perseverance requisite to insure correct deportment and intelligence were have invariably attached to them in all civil-advancement by study. While he was yet calculated to inspire. Cheerful, conciliatoized communities and in every age. Such too young and too small to attend the school, ry and frank, yet sedate and prudent in his publications are useful as conveying infor- which was at the distance of two miles from disposition, he was a favorite in every circle field officers were elected. His friends, ker was exemplary, dignified, and impartial, mation pleasing and gratitying to every class his father's dwelling, he prevailed on his he chose to frequent; and many who then of readers; but they are of far more value eldest brother (John) to bring his spelling became attached to him as a companion, and importance, as embodying and preser- book with him in the evenings and on Sun- have remained his steadfast friends through date for the office of Colonel, of the first re- unremitting. On his re-appearance in the ving facts connected with the fustory of the days, and thus by the regular and diligent hie, often indulging with pleasure and pride, country in which their subjects flourished, application of the hours usually wasted by the recollection of their intercourse and inand as elucidating the spirit of the times to children, he made himself master of what his timacy with him in former years. In a rewhich they relate. They serve also to incite brother had acquired at school. His moth, cent conversation, Mr. Myers bore cheerful to emulation and to infuse a desire for hon er steadily aided his efforts by encourage testimony to his industry and fidelity during orable fame, such as ever rewards a career ment and instruction; and at the end of six the term of his engagement, and declared of integrity and virtue, sustained by talents months he could read the german language that he was one of the best men he had evadequate to emergencies as they occur.--- with facility. He then kept himself in the er employed on his farm. On the same oc-They moreover teach the young and the course of improvement by frequently read casion, another respectable citizen, who, lowly, by the example of those who preceded ing to his mother in the evenings, until he within that period, had been his frequent

associate in the personal performance of agwhich a laudable ambition may elevate them As his parents entertained prejudices ricultural labors, said he had been uniform to similar notice and distinction. They against the english language, it was their by active, diligent and punctual, and had show the necessity of labor, and application, design that their son's time at school should proved himself to be a first rate farmer. In the year 1802, he married a daughter and perseverance for the attainment of ex- be devoted exclusively to the german, and cellence, emmence, and reward. They hold mainly in perfecting himself in reading and of Jacob Alter, Esq. of Cumberland county, lorth hope and encouragement to the poor, learning to write; as they considered it un who was then a member of the State Legis-

the humble, and the obscure, from whose necessary that he should be taught anything lature. His wife's maternal ancestors were midet the far greater number of distinguish-besides those branches. But the represendation among the earliest settlers of Lancaster ed and really useful men have in all times tations and arguments of the teacher, Mr. county, where many branches of the family sprung. And they admonish those who, at Carpenter, at length overcame their oppo-1 still reside. Her grandfather, Henry Lanthe outset of life, have the advantages of sition, though it was with great difficulty dis, owned and occupied a farm, which is yet wealth and influence to aid them in the race, that he succeeded in persuading them to in the possession of his descendants, about trance into school. His diligence continued Mennonist preachers in Pennsylvania; a man The annals of foreign countries, whose unremitted, and his progress in his english of strong mind, gentle manners, generous institutions secure privileges and preferences studies was as rapid as it had been in the and hospitable.

to birth and descent, and oppose powerful german, so that he soon attained a respecta-In consequence of his marriage, it became obstacles to the rise of lowly worth, are yet ble standing among the scholars. To a lad Mr. Ritner's duty to apply himself to busicrowded with examples of difficulties over- of german parentage, the acquisition of the ness with additional industry and economy. come and distinction attained, by men who english language was, in those days, atten- He now procured a loom, intending to labor had to contend against the frowns of fortune, ded with greater difficulties than it is at as a weaver, to secure an adequate support ern Army, who had accompanied the public the character for stability and solidity which the prejudices of caste, and the repressions present. At the school very few of the for his family, but was unable to endure long of unequal laws. But it is only in a republi-can land, like ours, where extended to all, and the highest stations are extended to all, and the highest stations and bjects of patriotic competition, that the weather was bad. As soon as the pro-and objects of patriotic competition, that the weather was bad. As soon as the pro-and to bjects of patriotic competition, that the school very it would place were then studying it, and it was the weather was bad. As soon as the pro-and to bjects of patriotic competition, that the school very it would place were then studying it, and it was the weather was bad. As soon as the pro-and to bjects of patriotic competition, that the school very it would place were then studying it, and it was the weather was bad. As soon as the pro-and to bjects of patriotic competition of the pro-station of the pro-s ies of worth, and genius, and seldom spoken. It was consequently not ceeds of his earnings enabled him to pur- unless some one went along who was of a A special & minute reference to Mr. Riteasy for a learner to become familiar with | chase a wagon & a pair of horses, he emigra- | persevering disposition and felt an interest ted to the western part of the State, and set- in the service, the supplies would never get its structure and acquire a readiness in the use of it, combined with that accuracy of tled in Allegheny county. This was in the to Franklinton. Mr. Ritner complied, and is there any necessity for such reference. so that we find, most thickly clustering on pronunciation which the fastidiousness of an fall of 1805. He rented a farm there, which very soon found that the bad condition of the he continued to occupy and cultivate until road and the attending difficulties had not Young Ritner was wholly unacquainted the spring of 1809, when he removed to been misrepresented or exaggerated. A with the language when he commenced Washington county, where he bought the great part of it passed through a wilderness, studying it; and though he soon learned to tract of land on which he now resides. This interspersed with swamps and otherwise read it with case, he continued unable to use | tract contains about 150 acres, and is of good | scarcely passable. By arduous exertions quality, though like most of the land in that | and untiring perseverance, however, the task t in conversation for some years thereafter. Indeed he had reached his fifteenth year, county, it is somewhat broken. When Mr. before opportunities and practice enabled Ritner purchased it, nearly the whole was him to speak it readily and well. Meantime in a wild and unimproved state. Only about frequently been known to assert, that if Johis fondness for reading and study remained [twenty-five acres were under fence, and the their way to eminence among the eminent, unabated; and his application, in so far as trees on this portion had been killed by gird seph Ritner and Joseph Haines had not been with them, the teams would never have arand now justly rank in the world's esteem he enjoyed leisure and means, was unremit- *ling*; but not an acre was cleared or fitted rived at the place of their destination. among the most valuable benefactors of the ied-striving all the while to understand for the plough. The dwelling house was a Mr. Ritner was retained in the Quarterthoroughly whatever he read. His eager. small cabin, suited merely for the tempora ry accommodation of a family. By personal labor and judicious manage the 28th of September, 1812, and returned ment, he has greatly improved this property at a very early age, to which he regularly and brought it to an excellent condition.-His health was materially impaired by the referred in every case of doubt or difficulty. One hundred acres have been cleared; and exposure, hardship, and fatigues inseparable He never permitted himself to guess at either these are well inclosed with fences, and in a from a winter campaign; and nearly two the meaning or the pronunciation of a word; fine state of cultivation. He has built a years clapsed before it was again perfectly and whenever he was not fully satisfied as roomy and substantial house, and erected an restored. had to determine. This was his invariable farming purposes. His fruit trees likewise It has been deemed proper to state thus practice, and by these means-by such un- are numerous, and among them are some of minutely the nature and extent of Mr. Rittiring assiduity and diligence—he ultimately the most choice and approved kinds. In ner's services in the army on the northwestsubstantial comfort, neatness, order and meth been made to misrepresent them and palm on the public garbled and partial statements of the country threw around him. So close od, which point out the homestead of a harin lieu of the truth. Any candid inquirer, dy, hardworking, frugal and judicious Pennsylvania husbandman, who prides himself on however, who will examine the "certificates" alluded to, will quickly perceive that they were carefully and designedly prepared for ty of his improvements. To produce this change-to convert th little falsehood and the suppression of mateuninviting wilderness which he found there rial truth, the contrivers of those "certifiat his arrival, into a land smiling with plenty, the labor of his own hands contributed by regular and steady application. There lead the incautious and unwary, if the delibaxe; he has guided the plough, handled the the performance. It is obvious that those scythe and the sickle, wielded the flail, and concerned in this dishonorable transaction. were anxious to avoid stating the whole truth with plainness and sincerity; and the most charitable construction that can be of his brow; and thriven by honorable toil. put on their conduct, is the supposition that whose oaths and practices conflict with the Joseph's parents designed that he should His system of management was not that or they were actuated, not by private grudges or personal ill-will, but by the bitterness of party feeling, or the depraving influences of secret obligations, which disregard alike the common charities of life, the cherished courtesies of civilized society, and the paramount duties of human nature. Ever since Mr. Ritner fixed his residence father to let him hire himself permanently has worked his way upward to competence in the West, he has steadily devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, as the chief employment of his life; and except when driving his team to the Philadelphia market, as is customary with his brother farmers. or when called by public and official duties, he has very seldom been east of the moun-

He continued in the employment of Mr. som one sentiment alien to their hearts, or services on occasions which contributed to the control the caster and we the method with re-Myers, and resided in his family happy and a wish foreign to their best interests. the spring, previous to the declaration of itude for business, and acquired a degree of unland Navigation and Internal Improvements I do not wish to be understood as controverting a singler not wish to be understood as controverting a singler not when the procure a substitute, and his situation as the head of a young tuents, that they re-elected him annually COMPLETE IT BEFORE WE UNDERTAKE ONE CANAL AT A TIME, and family, as also the example of others, would be the Loridout as the process. have seemed to justify him in so doing, he when the Legislature met, he was chosen natriotically determined to obey his coun- Speaker of the House, by a vote which proclaimed, in a flattering manner, the progress try's call and render personal service.

s Republican Banner.

The detachment to which he belonged he had made in his previous legislative carendezvoused at Pittsburg on Dunlap's plains, | reer, in winning the confidence and esteem on the 2d of October, where the General and of his colleagues. His deportment as Speaknowing his fearlessness and firmness of while his attention to the business of his character, prevailed on him to be a candi- constituents and the public, was devoted and gimen: of the brigade which the detachment constituted. The regiment was composed of the troops from Washington and Alleghe-inv counties. At the election, Mr. Biner over its deliberations; and be failed not to constituted the great mass of proble opinion with us. We cannot force public opinion into any measure; but public o-pinion can and will dictate measure; to the Legisla-arduous and responsible office of presiding provents deliberations; and be failed not to are a prudent, calculating, industrious ny counties. At the election, Mr. Rimer over its deliberations; and he failed not to had two competitors from his own county, confirm the expectations which his previous while there were but two candidates from discharge of its duties had justified his friends Allegheny. Had there been no more than in entertaining. Few that ever held the two candidates from Washington, he would station acquitted themselves more creditaundoubtedly have been elected. As it was, bly. Prompt, active, and diligent; thorough Joel Ferree, of Allegheny, was chosen, who ly conversant with the rules and forms of died at Zanesville on his return, after serv- legislative porceedings; aquainted with the ing the full tour. It is a fact worthy of nolocal and general interests of the State; tice that those of his competitors on that ocardently devoted to the public good; and casion who are yet living, have ever since bringing to his aid a mind richly stored by been his sincere friends and are now among | reading and reflection; he was well prepared

his warmest supporters. When the detachment advanced, Mr. Ritefficient action on the various topics which claimed his consideration as a legislator. ner marched as a private soldier in the ranks. carrying his musket and knapsack. On He mingled treety in debate, speaking as fretheir arrival at Mansfield, in Ohio, (then on quently as important subjects appeared to the verge of the frontier,) the time of those demand, and expressing himself with readiwho were hired to drive the public teams, uess and fluency, while his remarks and reasconveying orduance, small arms, and clothoning were always clear, cogent, and enerthat it is unsafe to rely on such fortuitous permit Joseph to use Dilworth's spelling three miles from the city of Lancaster, on ing for the regular troops, expired, and they getic. Whenever he had occasion to adcircumstances alone for permanent success book instead of the german bible, on his en- the Reading road. He was one of the first refused to re-engage. Sixteen of these teams dress the House, he relied not upon notes were destined to proceed to Franklinton. and memoranda previously prepared, but where Gen. Harrison's headquarters then upon the spontaneous efforts of his fertile were. Col. Ferree, who had just returned mind and well furnished memory; and never from a visit to that place, represented the failed to engage the respectful attention of road as the worst that could possibly be travelled by a team and loaded wagon. Quar-

his hearers. It is from the services of such men in her ter-master General Piatt, of the North Westpublic counsels, that Pennsylvania derived stores to Mansfield, desired the officers of has long been her pride and her boast; and

to exercise a sound judgment and exert

The second s reputation of being an honest, industrious | eral years thereafter, he annually gave his emphatically one of the people; during his | intelligence and superior gualifications could particularly partial to the Junata, to the exclusion of

ANOTHER; and to select that one which the Board of Canal Commissioners have recommended as the most likely to accomplish the most important purpose, Had the Board of Canal Commissioners recommended the west branch coute as the hest to connect the Lake Eric, I would as cheerfully support it as I now

support the amendment of my colleague. In favor of my position I would urge a few conside-tions. In the first place, I believe there is GREAT DANGER IN GOING TOO FAR AT THIS TIME. The whole project may be definated by UN-DERTAKING TOO MUCH. It is of the utmost impor-tance in the prosecution of this great work, to have and economical people; they must be convinced that whatever is undertaken by their representatives in the nature of public improvements with the public money, is a reasonable, a rational undertaking, or they will withhold their sanction and their approbation. The public will must be obeyed; it cannot be disregard-ed long.

The construction of a canal of such magnitude, is no dom, energy and resources of the Commonwealth to complete it, in time to accomplish the desired end. I am not, as I said before, opposed to the construction of the other canals provided for in the bill, as reported by the Committee on Inland Navigatio I must however be permitted to-say, that I deem IMPRUDENT and INEXPEDIENT to commence the con struction of them simultaneously with the one which is to connect the Susquehannah, Allegheny, and Ohio rivers, with Pittsburg and Lake Eric. Let us adopt the anendment. We can then apply all our skill, cn-ergies and resources to the construction of this great which will it is completed which can be described. work, until it is completed, which can be done (accor ding to the opinion of those who have more experi-ence than I have,) in two or three years. We can neg to the opinion of those who have more experi-ence than I have,) in two or three years. We can THEN commence another—the one which stands next in rank with regard to usefulness; complete it also-and so on, until all the canals which the public benefit may call for, are made.

By proceeding in this way, we will reap the full benefit of a whole line, in the shortest time possible. The tolls that will be paid into the treasury of the Flate, will enable us to go on *WITHOUT RESOR-*TING TO IAXATION, in any wny that will be felt by the farmers or mechanicks, or any portion of the laboring community. This course will to make all the canals asked for on the This course will enable us anna and the Delaware, much sooner than if we divide our forces by undertaking more than can be ad-vantageously attended to. No good reason has been given, why the bill should pass in the shape it was

eiven, why the bill should have an reported; none can be given. There is another consideration shat ought not to be overlooked. In undertaking only one caual, we will be available originate to sustain us. In undertaking rough the boly woired. sums of money expended. Several gentlemen have delivered their sentiment on this subject since I spoke yesterday; but had these gentlemen not told us that they were intended to rethe the arguments which I use d in favor of my col-league's amendment, I should not have considered them as replies to what I said. What object gentlemen may have in view by assailing me in the man-ner they have done, instead of applying their obserner they have done, instead of applying their obser-vations to the points in controversy, I know not. But it sometimes happens that when gentlemen who are oven ZEALOUS can find no arguments to support their positions, they resort to personalities, and assail the motives of those to whom they are opposed. If I have during this discussion, said any thing that was calen-lated to wound the feelings of any gentleman, I can only say that I did not intend to hurt the feelings of any one. Attacks to hurt the feelings of gentlemen, are not weapons I am fond of using in the discusarc not weapons I am fond of using in the discus-sion of important questions." Such were the views such the sentiments. and such the foresight of Joseph Ritner, at the commencement of this important and costly work! Who is now found hardy enough to say that experience has not demonstrated cellence of his counsel? His sagacity in discerning the true policy of the State, was equalled only by his clearness and coolness in debate, and the decorous and dignified manner in which he rebuked the rudences of his opponents. It will here be in place to remark that, though nearly all the gentlemen who have held the office of Governor since the adoption of the present Constitution of Pennsylvania, had, previous to their election, served in the State Legislature, there is none who, in that capacity gave higher and clearer proof of the possession of a vigorous mind and matured judgment, in relation to local interests and State policy, than Joseph Rit. When the matter was under discussion in ner. Let a fair and candid investigation and comparison he instituted, and the result will in no instance be disadvantageous to him, but in most cases clearly and strongly in his favor. Taught by experience the necessity and benefit of education. Mr. Ritner has always been assiduous in his attention to schools in his neighborhood, and placed within the reach of his own children all the literary and scientific advantages in his power. A school house was erected on his farm many years ago, in which all the common branches of learning have been regularly taught, and for the support of which he ever manifested the liveliest interest. He has also acted during a long period, as one of the Trustees of Washington College-an institution which is deservedly ranked among the best and most efficient in the Middle and Western States. In his political sentiments, he was always democratic republican, and his action in reference to public questions was uniformly in accordance with his convictions and principles. He never stood aloof from the discussions which agitated and convulsed the country, since he arrived at the age of manhood. He voted for Jefferson, Mudison and Monroe; and gave to the measures of their administration his decided and cordial support. Even after the old party distinctions had ceased to exist, he concurred with the

talent, can exert the most extensive and beneficial influence on the public mind and the character of individuals. And it is here althe record of the past, the names of men in english ear so imperiously exacts. debted to no adventitious aid for the success and renown which rewarded their efforts and perseverance. Here we may already boast of a Franklin,a Sherman, a Putnam, a Knox, a Wayne, a Rittenhouse, a Snyder, a Fulton, an Evans, a Perkins, a Whitney and a West. with a host of other self-taught men, who, whether in the work shop, the closet, the study, the farm, the cabinet, or the field, won human family, the most distinguished ornaments of mankind.

and perpetuity of fame.

ness to comprehend all that he had an oppor-PENNSYLVANIA has not been inferior to unity to peruse in english books and newsher sister States in the production of this papers, induced him to procure a dictionary class of useful citizens; and they in return have reflected high honor on her name, and benefitted her by most essential services .---To note their rise and record their struggles against adverse fortune, was a duty which has been but too inadequately performed by to either point, an appeal to the dictionary adequate number of outbuildings adapted to their friends and survivors, though the neglect was perhaps only the natural consequence of their unobtrusive habits and unpretending usefulness. Modest worth seeks succeeded in surmounting the obstacles short, his farm exhibits that appearance of not for fame, though it earns and wins it .-which his situation and the circumstances But when real merit has advanced an individual to notice, and made him an object and precise were his investigations, that to which the attention of his fellow-citizens as his familiar friends have heard him reis strongly drawn; when public interests of mark--he never knew the meaning of an the excellence of his products and the solidi-

vast and vital importance may be dependent english word that he could not spellon a correct knowledge and just apprecia. There are certainly few Englishmen, not tion of his character; and when he is so con-professed writers, whatever were their advantages, whose orthography is more accunected with a particular principle or measure of public policy urged on the people for rate, or whose style is more perspicuous, their sanction and support, that he stands as vigorous, and pure. His success is an adit were its representative before them; there ditional proof of what may be accomplished is no part of a farmer's bu-incss which he is an additional propriety and necessity for by untiring industry and a determination to has not personally performed. The forest promulgating the leading facts in the history improve, amid the most discouraging disad- has bowed beneath the sturdy stroke of his of his life. Such is the case with the sub- vantages; and his example might foster in ject of this brief biographical sketch. A others a laudable ambition to excel, and numerous and respectable party, consisting conduce to lead them onward in that career for many years drove his own team. He principally of the substantial yeomanry of of intellectual improvement which will ren- has maintained himself and his family by the Commonwealth, contending for the sup der them valuable and estimable as citizens daily industry; eaten his bread in the sweat pression and eradication of an Institution and as men.

supremacy of the laws and the just rights learn his father's trade, and he was required the theoretical fancy farmer; but that of the of the citizen, have selected one of their own to work at it for some time, before he was practical man, who participates in all the number, in whose name and person they are lifteen years oid. His dishke to the business varied and laborious operations of husband labouring, with every prospect of success, was such, however, that he frequently sought ry, to assure himself that they are performto make their principles triumphant. The permission to make engagements with the ed in the best manner and at the proper sealife and character of the individual thus se-neighbours to do farm-work suited to his age son. The man who, from such small be lected, can consequently not be objects of and strength, and finally prevailed on his ginnings and by such praise-worthy means, indifference to the freemen of the State.

JOSEPH RITNER, the candidate of the to a respectable farmer (Jacob Meyers, who and prosperity-who, obedient to the crav Anti Masonic party for the office of Gover- is yet living near Newville,) in Cumberland ings of an active and inquiring mind, has nor of Pennsylvania, was born on the 25th county, whither his parents had now re- improved his faculties by voluntary self-apof March, 1780, in Alsace township, Berks moved. For his services he received eighty plication while struggling against dishcartcounty. Buth his parents were also natives dollars a year until he attained the age of ening difficulties, is precisely the man best of Berks, whither his ancestors emigrated twenty, when his compensation was advan l'qualified to enter fully into the feelings of the from Germany about a century ago. His ced about fifty per cent. His mother died a mass of his fellow citizens and appreciate the tains. Closely and sedulously as he aptather was a weaver by trade, and had the short time before he left home; and for sev. circumstances of their condition. He is phed himself to his buisness, his general

ner's acts and votes in the Legislature, would extend this sketch to an undue length; nor The facts that he was six times in succession elected a member of the House and twice chosen its Speaker, are the best evidence that could be adduced, that his legislative conduct was approved by his immediate constituents and his fellow citizens in general. It will however be proper to advert was ultimately accomplished and Gen. Harspecially to his course on one important rison's headquarters reached. But those occasion, as furnishing an illustration of his who were in company on this occasion, have sound judgment, prudence and foresight.

It was during the last term of his membership, that he was required to act on a subject of State policy, deeply affecting the interests of the people, and largely involving the prospects of the Commonwealth.

master's department, to the end of his tour The adoption of a system of internal im- the soundness of his judgment and the exof duty. He left home on this service on provement was then warmly urged on the Legislature. A very decided expression of again about the 20th of April following. public sentiments in favour of such a course, appeared to have been made, by public meetings, at the ballot box, and through the medium of the newspapers; and it was hence argued that duty required from the Legis-

lature a conformity to popular will, and corresponding action. An improvement mania had seized a large proportion of the members, and in their blind zeal they were ready ern frontier, because recent attempts have to rush headlong onward, sanctioning the wildest projects and authorizing the most lavish expenditures. The friends of a rational and substantial policy perceived the impending danger, and laboured to avert it. committee of the whole, Mr. Ritner (then the purpose of deception. By the use of a Speaker) availed himself of the opportunity to explain his views in regard to it. He was, in common with a majority of the cates" have given such a shape and hue to people, in favour of an enlarged and liberal their account of his services, as might mis. | system of improvement; but like them also, he was anxious that it should be both judierate & black-hearted malice that prompted crous and economical. The following exthe attempt were not so legibly impressed on tract from the speech which he then made, will show that he treated the subject like an intelligent, pradent, practical man-that he was desirous that the Great Farm of Pennsylvania should be improved, not with imprudent rashness and thoughtless extravagance, but as the provident farmers who own her soil improve their private property, with prudence, judgment, and rational economy. He was not for plunging heedlessly into a crude and unmatured enterprise, of unmanagable magnitude; but for proceeding gradually, with caution and care-beginning at the right point, labouring to the proper end, doing one thing at a time, and that well which it was determined to do at all. He saw that a different course must inevitably lead to disappointment and delay,

to profligate extravagance, to enormous debt and onerous taxation. This he foresaw; and this he laboured, but laboured in vain, to prevent. Let his own words now speak for him:---"I am in favour of the amendment proposed by my colleague," said Mr. RITNER, "not because I are

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