THE GETTYSBURG STAR & REPUBLICAN BANNER.

☞ Devoted to Politics, Foreign and Domestic Intelligence, Literature, Science, Agriculture, the Mechanic Arts, Internal Improvement, and General Miscellany. ☜

Legislative Proceedings.

☞ FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Gettysburg Star.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 9, 1836.

With the exception of the presentation of numerous petitions generally of a local character, very little of importance was transacted in the House yesterday. Among the petitions presented, were some from Berks, Northumberland and Westmoreland, for a repeal and alteration of the act establishing a General System of Education.

To-day after the presentation of petitions, a communication was laid before the House from the Canal Commissioners, in vindication of certain matters referred to by the Governor in his objections returned with the resolution relative to the purchase of twelve additional locomotives for the Columbia and Philadelphia Rail Road. A motion was made by Mr. M'CLURE, who appears to be the advocate for Gov. Wolf and company, to print two thousand copies of the communication in the English and five hundred in the German language, which elicited a very warm and animated debate of about an hour and a quarter in length; during which, there were manifested some very angry feelings between Messrs. Cox and M'CLURE.—The discussion did not so much arise on the subject to print, as from the motives to do so. Mr. M'Clure contended that the Canal Commissioners stand arraigned before the bar of public opinion as culprits charged with high crimes, and that they had a right to be heard in their own defence, and that the document was nothing more than an exposition of facts which the public ought to know. Mr. Cox advocated the printing of the paper, upon the ground of justification to the Governor, that the people might be able to appreciate the motives more fully which actuated the Executive, in the refusal of his assent to the resolution. That the consequences had been, as he alleged, to induce the Speaker not interfered to conjecture, had the Speaker not interfered by calling the gentlemen to order!

Mr. WALKER offered an amendment to the motion to print, made by Mr. M'Clure, by adding "that the communication be not received and that the Clerk be directed to return the same to the Canal Commissioners." He supported the amendment, in his usual felicitous and forcible style; he contended that the canal commissioners had no right to reply to any message of the Executive unless called for by the House; he said it was impudent and insolent in them to do so, and that such conduct should not be countenanced, much less receive the sanction of the House; that if it were to be received, the House would every day be annoyed by such insolent communications; and that he hoped it would be rejected.

The Yeas and Nays being called, the motion to reject the communication was lost by a vote of six to seventy. The yeas and nays were then called on the motion to print, and were Yeas fifty-three, Nays twenty-one, so the motion to print prevailed. As soon as the communication is printed, I will send you a copy. Besides Messrs. Cox, M'Clure and Walker, Messrs. Stevens, Reed, Spotsman and Karns participated in the debate.

The House then proceeded to the nomination of candidates for State Treasurer, when the following persons were nominated, viz: RICHARD T. LEECH, JOSEPH HENDERSON, ALEXANDER MAHON, JOSEPH LAWRENCE and WALTER OLIVER. Tuesday next is the day fixed by law, for the election; it is difficult in conjecture as to the probable result of the election, but it is highly probable that Mr. Lawrence will be the man. A more efficient man could not be elected.

Mr. LAWRENCE called for the second reading of the resolution offered by him some time since, relative to the distribution of the surplus revenue among the States, for purposes of Education and Internal Improvement. After some remarks on the subject, with regard to the reasons why the resolution should pass, a motion to adjourn prevailed, and the further consideration of the subject was suspended, until Monday next.

The "Union and harmony" convention adjourned to-day, pleased with each other, at least for the time being; the Malfites swallowing the whole dish prepared for them by their loving friends, the Wolf men, at the fourth of March Convention! How very keen their appetites must have become since the election, when they looked upon the corruptions of their Wolf brethren with such a degree of holy horror; now they are prepared to swallow a mess which was condemned to be so nauseous a few short months ago!—Circumspection! Gentlemen!

HARRISBURG, Jan. 11, 1836.

Numerous petitions on various subjects were presented, generally of a local character; there were a few presented for an investigation of the evils of Free-Masonry, and one for a repeal of the School law.

The resolution offered by Mr. LAWRENCE, relative to the distribution of the surplus revenue among the States, was read the second time and passed. It was amended by Mr. Lawrence, so as to read "such proportion of the revenue as may arise from the sale of the public lands."

There was a feeble resistance made to the passage of the resolution, by some of the "Union and harmony family." They resorted to the written creed of their great and infallible *law giver*, and conceived that the extracts that they had read, from his celebrated veto message on the subject of Gov's land bill, (which by the by, was all the argument advanced by them,) were sufficient reasons why the resolution should not pass. Mr. JONES, however, who seemed disposed to doubt the constitutionality of the resolution, because Andrew Jackson had done so before him, voted for the passage of the resolution, upon the Yeas and Nays being called. The vote stood for the passage of the resolution *seventy*, and against it, *twelve*.

One of the grounds taken by Mr. M'Clure was the use there would be for the surplus revenue upon the event that there should be a rupture with France; which he seemed to think would in all probability occur. But the friends of reform, who are solicitous for the removal of the heavy burthens imposed upon our citizens by the corrupt and extravagant administration of Governor Wolf, were not so easily scared by those rumors of war, which have heretofore been sounded merely to subserve party purposes. Should such an unhappy state of things take place, those who talk most loudly and make the greatest pretensions to patriotism, will, like on former occasions, be the last to come to the rescue.

The committee appointed to investigate the subject of Free-Masonry and other secret and oath-bound associations, had a meeting. A Mr. M'CLELLAND, who had taken the degree of Knight Templar, was sworn, and under oath testified to all the facts contained in "*Allyn's Ritual*," as being substantially correct in every particular, with the exception of a few trifling variations as practised in the several lodges. Mr. ALEXANDER FOSTER, jr. of Pittsburg, of the Order of Odd Fellows, was next examined, and testified to all the facts contained in an exposition of the association of Odd Fellowship. The oaths by which the members of that association are bound together, and the penalties imposed upon them for a violation thereof, are no less horrible and blasphemous in their character, than those of the order of Masonry. An exposition of the horrid oaths and penalties of those institutions are enough to fill the mind with horror, and it is impossible that an institution so foul, so blasphemous, and so utterly at variance with the laws of God and man, should much longer have an existence in a community of christianity and laws. An exposition of its abominations, is sufficient to cover to deter any man possessed of Christian feelings, from entering such a den of pollution. Many Masons, doubtless, are honest and sincere; they have been deluded, and the awful character of the oaths and penalties imposed upon them, deter them from renouncing the order.

Ex-Governor WOLF, who was likewise summoned to attend, did not make his appearance; but sent a communication to the Chairman of the Committee, protesting against *their* authority to ask *his* attendance! The committee, it is said, send an attachment for his Ex-Excellency.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 12, 1836.

Not much of general interest was done today, with the exception of a rather animated debate on a report made by Mr. STEVENS, Chairman of the Committee to Investigate the Evils of Free-Masonry and all other Secret Associations, on the subject of their having served subpoenas upon Gov. WOLF, JOHN NELSON and CHARLES SHALER, and their refusal to attend before the committee; accompanied with a resolution, relative to issuing attachments for the said George Wolf, John Nelson and all other delinquent witnesses. Mr. SPACKMAN moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject for the present, when Mr. STEVENS moved to amend the motion until after the ballotings for State Treasurer, (which took place to day,) which was agreed to. Mr. REED did not deny the authority of the House to compel the attendance of witnesses before any committee that might be appointed by the House, and that he would go as far as any man to enforce the action of the House upon the subject, but he said that it was a subject of great importance, therefore he thought there ought to be time given, and that the present discussion was premature. Messrs. STEVENS and WATTS, entertained different views on the subject; they contended that a refusal even to attend before a regularly constituted committee by the House, was treating the House with the greatest indignity, more especially as such a refusal emanated from one who recently was the administrator of the laws, and should be the last to refuse obedience. Mr. STEVENS said, he cared not how high the individual was, he had just the same right with the meanest beggar that treads the face of the earth, to obey a call of this House, to testify to all proper questions that might be proposed.

The letters of Gov. Wolf and John Nelson were read; the former contends that no earthly power has a right to compel him to expose any compact into which he may have entered, tolerated by the constitution, which he said was the character of the Masonic Institution. The whole affair is a weak concern, disreputable to a man who has filled the Chief Magistracy of the State.

As soon as the balloting for State Treasurer, were closed for to-day, the House adjourned. So the question will again be up to-morrow, when it is expected we will have a specimen of Masonic Whiggery. There were three unsuccessful ballotings for State Treasurer, on the third ballot,

Alexander Mahon,	42 votes
Joseph Lawrence,	35
Richard T. Leech,	29
Joseph Henderson,	6

There being no choice, the convention adjourned until to-morrow.

The committee to investigate the evils of Free-Masonry, had a session this afternoon at 3 o'clock, but not a single witness answered to his name!

HARRISBURG, Jan. 13, 1836.

To day, as soon as the House met, Mr. STEVENS moved that the House now proceed to the consideration of the resolution, relative to issuing of attachment for George Wolf and others, which was before the House when it adjourned yesterday.—Twelve o'clock being the hour fixed for balloting for State Treasurer, the remarks were suspended until after the election, which resulted on the third ballot, in the choice of JOSEPH LAWRENCE.

The House again met at 3 o'clock and sat till five, when the question was taken on the resolution, and passed, Yeas fifty-nine, Nays twenty-one.

The passage of the resolution was advocated by Messrs. STEVENS, COX, FREW, WALKER of Erie, REED, STACKMAN, KARNS and CONRAD; and opposed by Messrs. M'CLURE, HALL and HILL. It would be doing injustice to the masterly speech of Mr. Stevens on this occasion were I to attempt to give even an outline—I shall, therefore not attempt it. The gentlemen who spoke in favor of the resolution, all acquitted themselves in an admirable manner, in their determination to stand by the constitution and the laws, by defending them from every encroachment upon the sanctity of their character, either from Masonic, or any other oath bound association, emanating from any source, however high it may be. The opponents of the measure made a pitiable effort, in endeavoring to make it appear a private concern, and that it was unconstitutional by a branch of the Legislature to appoint a committee clothed with power to send for persons and papers. But their Masonic cobwebs were weighed and found wanting. All the sophistry that the lodge could invent, weighed not a feather. To-morrow, it is expected, that his Ex-Excellency will appear before the committee.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 14, 1836.

Numerous petitions were presented today; among which, were several for the repeal of the act abolishing imprisonment for debt, under a less amount than five dollars and thirty-four cents. Also several for a repeal and one for an alteration of the School Law.

An attachment was issued against his Ex Excellency, (Geo. Wolf,) who accordingly appeared this afternoon before the committee, but refused to testify to such matters as might be put to him. The small fry generally follow in the train of their great leader. Some few are growing weary of wearing the collar any longer, and of them a full and decisive expression will be had on the subject. The Committee of Investigation have adjourned until Monday next; take, no doubt, such measures in reference to matters, as will be necessary to compel the attendance of delinquent witnesses. What the result will probably be, it is difficult at present to anticipate. It is however to be regretted, that the highest office of the State, who has wielded its destinies for the last six years, should hold his Masonic obligations *paramount* to those he took upon entering upon the duties of his official term.—Such a state of affairs is justly calculated to arouse firemen, and make them tremble for the welfare and perpetuity of that precious liberty purchased with the treasure, and sealed with the blood, of their patriotic fathers.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 15, 1836.

Petitions were presented to-day by Mr. COMLY and Mr. COWEN for the repeal of the act abolishing imprisonment for debt for an amount not exceeding five dollars and thirty-four cents. Mr. DEWART presented a petition for a repeal of the School Law.—There were many others presented, but generally of a local character. Mr. HASSEN presented one for an act authorizing limited partnership and Mr. GAMBLE one for an act authorizing a Mineralogical and Geological survey of the State. The latter two are general in their character.

Mr. BULLOCK, made an effort to-day to have the vote given on Wednesday last, relative to issuing attachments for Gov. Wolf and other delinquent witnesses, reconsidered; his reasons, like all that have yet been advanced by the Masonic collar party, were, that he doubted the constitutionality of the measure, therefore he was anxious to record his vote against it, having, when the resolution was before the House, on a former occasion, acted, without reflecting on the important character of the resolution. He conceived that it would be establishing a dangerous precedent, involving no less than the deprivation of the sacred right of freemen.

The cry of distress no doubt, has been uttered, the mandate of the Lodge has gone forth, and called upon the petty vassals of the Order, to protect its Knight Templars, Knights of the Holy Ghost, of the Red Cross and the Celestial Empire, from the doom decreed by public opinion which awaits it, and which will most inevitably result in the final overthrow of the Vampire which is preying upon the vitals of our liberties, and setting at defiance the constitution and the laws. The day is not far distant, when this monster will only exist in the pages of history, and serve as a beacon to deter future generations from the commission of such follies and its crimes.

☞ Mr. Bullock's motion was lost—yeas 29, nays 52.

☞ We hope our Harrisburg Correspondent will continue his favors. They are well received by our readers.

☞ GEORGE TAYLOR, sen. Esq. has been appointed by the Governor, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Adams.

☞ The Pittsburg Gazette in an article in reference to the proceedings of the late Convention, comes to the following just and true conclusion:

The whole case simply stated, is as follows:

The National Convention of 1831 recommended another National Convention; the State Convention of March 1835, concurred in this recommendation, and *directed* the State Committee to appoint the time and manner of electing the delegates. In obedience to this *direction*, the State Committee called a convention, to elect *delegates to a National Convention*; and a large very large majority of the counties, having this call before them, sent delegates, either with instructions approving the National Convention, or without instructions, thus concurring in the call. Yet, in *disregard* of all this, a majority of the delegates, consisting of Whigs and office hunters, under the direction of James Todd, decided against a National Convention, thus nullifying the national organization of the party, and putting at defiance the will of the people.

To the Editor of the Star and Republican Banner.

*** Tuesday, December 29, 1835.

DEAR SIR:—I have read, again and again, the official report of the proceedings of the Democratic Anti-Masonic State Convention at Harrisburg, and have tried to reconcile the proceedings of the majority with my own, long cherished Anti-Masonic principles, as well as with the public declarations made, for years past, by nearly all the Anti-Masonic newspapers, throughout the state; yea—with the very resolutions which the said majority publish as, "unanimously adopted at the conclusion of their session." But I confess my utter inability to do so. The more I reflect, the more I find (in the light of the original messages of the latter years,) professions and practice in direct opposition! And what I regret most it appears it their object had been, as far as they were able, to verify the very accusations which have been continually reiterated against Anti-Masons by the Lodges and their abettors, from the commencement of political Anti-Masonry down to this very day—viz: the charge of *insincerity and dishonesty in their political professions.*

"*We go for principles and not for men!*" hath been re-echoed from one Anti-Masonic meeting to the other. And, "*the destruction of Masonry is not what we want; the prostration of Andrew Jackson, the destruction of Democracy is our object,*" hath been the unanimous answer of the cabal now! at democratic meetings in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, &c. And "*you never to lead us to Van Buren and deliver us captive to Jackson Democracy.*" is the cry of the exhortation'd Whig meetings and papers of Massachusetts and other states with acknowledged Whig majorities.

"In vain did you try to conquer *Democracy*, "and to defeat the *greatest and the bestest second* "*Saviour of our country*, as Federals, National-"Republicans or Whigs were called you then! Yea, in the name of Anti-masonry join up the ghost of murdered Morgan, and talk about *equal rights, principle, and supremacy of the laws*, in order to "make dupes and tools of the unsuspecting, and "and to fix an opponent of the present administration (no matter whether Masonry, Anti-Masonry, or neither, or political Anti Mason) in the Presidential Chair, as have one end in view to effect a gubernatorial "change in our state; not of principle, but of "money, not for the good of the public, but for the "loaves and fishes," crime the consequence in the ranks of the man, *born to command!* and is accounted by the approved nobility, on that side of the question, in Pennsylvania. And in one of honest Jacksonian, or true Democrat (who is no man's man,) believes, and strengthens by his vote a blasphemous society, whose oaths and rites he abhors; and the party of a man, whose principles he abhors and detests!

Again: "What do you care about Morgan, "Masons and Masonic oaths, laws and principles?" ask the Whig leaders of Massachusetts, and all the brethren of the "mystic tye" with "them. "All you want is to give Van Buren the "vote of Massachusetts, and you to secure the "patronage of the General Government into those "hands who justly fear that the sceptre will be "wrested from them, and that the day of retribution is near."

"*Foul slander!*" cry the Anti-Masons, "We "have nothing to do with the old party distinctions "and names; they have had their day, lost their "opposing and are only contended for by the adherents of one or another man, for selfish purposes. We are no enemies, neither of Jackson "or Clay; we only oppose the anti-republican "usurpations of the one, and the practical, adhering Masonry of both. Thus, the political Anti-"Masons, we oppose at the polls; and Jackson "Democracy or Whiggism have nothing to do with "this. We, as Anti Masons, have our own men, "among any of the candidates brought before the "people by any other party, provided they are not "another political Anti-Mason (or adhering Ma-"sons, such as Van Buren, White, Harrison,—"they stand towards us in an equal position; we "cannot be the exclusive friends of either." But "should the Anti-Masons of the United States in their National Convention, unite upon a prominent political Anti-Mason, like *Adams, Webster, Everett, Granger, Coffman*, or any other, we shall "give him our united support *as a party*—not as a "man, but as the representative and defender of our "principles—EQUAL RIGHTS AND THE SUPREMACY "OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS!"

"*Foul slander!*" say the majority of the Democratic Anti-Masonic State Convention of Pennsylvania, in their official report. "But we will not send Delegates to the National Anti Masonic Convention, *because it is inexpedient to hold such a convention!* (why?) We nominate *William Henry Harrison*, who is sufficiently Anti-Masonic, *for President*, and *Francis Granger* for Vice President; and we declare to our friends, and all the members from each county, to inform the Convention of the name and surname of the man of their primary meetings for the election of delegates to the state convention; and that in having nominated William H. Harrison, we have strictly adhered to the principles of Democratic Anti-Masonry and therefore form the following electoral ticket, *pledged for the support of the candidates as nominated*," &c. "and we further express, that the company of the two eagles to be upheld against individuals and secret sworn associations; and that the people have a right to assemble to such end, recast to the ballot box, legislative enactments, use of public press;" &c.—"That, believing Masonry and all secret oath-bound societies an evil, we do not recommend to our friends in other states a distinct party organization, (take notice Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware!) for suppression and the *election of Mr. H Harrison and Francis Granger, the democratic Anti Masonic candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States*; (!!!) and that we have abundant cause to rejoice at the last triumph of our principles in this state, (does this refer to the election of Mr. Ritner, or to the refusal to send delegates to the National Anti Masonic convention, and the setting up a joint ticket with the Whigs, for the election of Harrison!!!) but so far from relaxing in our efforts that we are resolved to use increased diligence, perseverance, and therefore recommend to our friends, to settling their county tickets to adhere strictly and rigidly to the directions and principles of Democratic Anti-Masonry! to these declarations, we say there must be no compromise with Anti-Masonic spirit neither Mason, nor Anti-Mason will doubt!

"*Foul slander!*" said Mr. Hallet of the Boston Advocate. "But Anti-Masons cannot as friends of their country, and in their present disorganization as a National party (indeed! Hallet was a acquaintance with Todd!) nominate an exclusive candidate for the Presidency. And if they would, no man is to be found, known as an Anti-Mason, and fit for office, who would accept a nomination. They must therefore carry their unsorted strength into the ranks of one party and thus compel that party to respect the principles of Anti-Masonry, or divide and fight as separate forces in the ranks of other parties; into whatever party Anti-Masonry goes in a body, it will drive Masonry out; and it had better be driven out of the certain majority, (Van Buren,) than from the over last, by minority." (Whig.)

In how far the above accusations, made by the opponents and enemies of Anti-Masonry, are justly laid by the consistent Anti-Masons, in sincerity, and which Anti-Masonic declarations are consistent and honest, and which is insincere and hypocritical, shall be the topic for investigation in a few more, and shorter communications from your obedient humble servant,

N. B.—If Mr. Fenn, of the Pennsylvania Telegraph, had published the notes which, he says, he took of the proceedings of the Anti-Masonic convention, the injustice which he was "afraid of doing" he would not be inquiring "is said" would have been transferred to the community at large, and the cause of Anti-Masonry in general. Both gentlemen are known as good speakers; and the correctness of the positions advanced, would lead to salutary conviction; where the accomplished orator would be heard with pleasure, and the plain man will in reporting