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GETTYSBURGH, PENN.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1837.

Constitutional Convention.

FROM HARRISBURGH.

Correspondence of the Gettysburgh Star.

HARRISBURGH, July 10, 1837.

DEAR SIR: Since I wrote you the Convention went into Committee of the Whole on the 4th Article of the Constitution, the fifth article having been postponed for the present to take up the 6th article; the first section reads as follows viz:

Section 1. Sheriffs and Coroners shall, at the times and places of election of Representatives, be chosen by the citizens of each county; *two persons shall be chosen for each office, one of whom, for each, respectively, shall be appointed* by the governor, they shall hold their offices for three years, if they shall so long behave themselves well, and until a successor be duly qualified; but no person shall be twice chosen or appointed Sheriff in any term of six years. Vacancies in either of the said offices, shall be filled by *a new* appointment, to be made by the governor, to continue until the next general election, and, until a successor, shall be chosen and qualified as aforesaid.

This section was amended by striking out after the word county, the following words, "two persons shall be chosen for each office, one of whom, for each, respectively," and inserting "one person shall be chosen for each office who," and to strike out the word 'appointed' and insert 'commissioned,' and to strike out the words *a new* and insert 'one.' This section then as amended will read—

Section 1. Sheriffs and Coroners shall, at the times and places of election of Representatives, be chosen by the citizens of each county; *one person shall be chosen for each office* who shall be *commissioned* by the Governor. They shall hold their offices for three years, if they shall so long behave themselves well, and until a successor be duly qualified; but no person shall be twice chosen or appointed Sheriff, in any term of six years. Vacancies, in either of the said offices, shall be filled by an appointment to be made by the Governor, to continue until the next general election, and until a successor shall be chosen and qualified as aforesaid.

Section second amended as follows:

Section 2. Prothonotaries and Clerks of the several Courts (except the Prothonotaries of the Supreme Court, who shall be appointed by the court for the term of three years if they so long behave themselves well,) Recorders of Deeds and Registers of Wills, shall at the times and places of Election of Representatives be elected by the citizens of each county, or the districts over which the jurisdiction of said court extends and shall be commissioned by the Governor; they shall hold their offices for three years if they shall so long behave themselves well, and until their successors shall be duly qualified. The Legislature shall provide by law for the number of persons in each County, who shall hold said offices, and how many, and which of said offices, shall be held by one person. Vacancies in any of the said offices shall be filled by an appointment to be made by the Governor, to continue until the next general election, and until a successor shall be chosen and qualified as aforesaid.

The Section relative to the election of Justices of the Peace by the people, was not finally acted on in Committee of the whole.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer and Courier.

HARRISBURGH, July 14, 1837.

The Convention met this morning, and immediately closed its session by an adjournment until fall.

I have been an attentive observer of the proceedings of this Convention, from the first day of its session until the close, and in the proceedings there is little to approve, either of action or the manner of its performance. But, at the same time, they have done little in the way of altering the constitution that is objectionable; though they have not, in the slightest degree, bettered the present instrument. The time has been consumed in frivolous discussion, and sometimes personal debate, wholly unworthy the assembly.

The expenses of the Convention have been very great, enormous indeed, and of this the people have a right to complain. But great expense is not a justifiable defence for an act of meanness unparalleled in any public body that ever assembled in Harrisburg. They refused to make adequate provision for the payment of the newspapers ordered by the clerk under a resolution of the Convention. It is believed that the chairman of the committee on accounts was disposed to be liberal, the majority of the committee refused to place but one thousand dollars unappropriated money in the hands of the clerk, Mr. Shoch. They should have set an example in the performance of contracts.

HARRISBURGH, July 15, 1837.

The Convention, which closed its session yesterday, was composed of many of the first men of Pennsylvania, in point of talent; but talent was never more fruitlessly expended by any body. Much of their time was absolutely lost: frittered away in idle discussion. The excitement of the times, or some other cause, seemed insensibly to lead the speakers from the real topics before them.

But the debates of the Convention will present, when published, (among many weeds and much rubbish,) many examples of chaste elocution, and some philosophic discussion. The historian, in judging from the debates, will not rank this Convention as inferior to the one which formed the constitution of New York.

The philosophic contemplations of Sergeant; the bold and merciless sarcasm, and sometimes touching and overpowering eloquence of Stevens; the point and sound logic of Meredith; the calm dignity of Hopkinson; the pleasant humor of Dunlop; the rhetoric of Scott, all made deep impressions on my mind, and will not soon be forgotten. If the published debates do justice to some of their efforts, Pennsylvania will not be absolutely disgraced.

Mr Chauncey, of your city, owing to ill health, did not speak so often as he otherwise would; but when he did, he fully equalled the reputation he has long held as a distinguished advocate and a profound lawyer.

Mr. Sill, of Erie, and Mr. Biddle, too, of your city, distinguished themselves by some happy efforts; Mr. Biddle particularly, in his defence of the Philadelphia merchants, was truly eloquent.

Mr. Chambers, of Franklin, and Mr. Denny, of Pittsburg, are of those who deserve encomium for their strict attention to duty; their urbanity and courteous manners, and their sound views on constitutional principles, expressed with great ability and force.

I must not omit to mention Mr. McDowell, of Bucks, as one of those humorous and energetic speakers, who are always listened to with attention. He is one of those whose positions are bold, and often extravagant, and as such, *command* attention.

But my limits will not admit of particular mention of many of the conservative members, whose talents and reputation will entitle them to extended notice. Messrs. Cunningham, Dickey, Chandler, Heister, Reigart, Long, McSherry, Weidman, Cox, and others, are all men of whom Pennsylvania may be proud, and whose influence must have a powerful effect at the present day upon her destinies.

There are some of the Van Buren men, also, who deserve notice for their talent; and some of them recommendery for their urbanity. But the latter cannot be said of all of them named here.

Among those who have won most general notice, and whose speeches will be read in after times with interest by the commentator upon constitutional law, are Messrs. Ingersoll, of the county, Bell, of Chester, Woodward, of Luzerne, Rogers, of Pittsburg, Brown, of the county, and Porter, of Northampton. The majority of these are radicals, all, perhaps, except Mr. Porter, who in early life imbibed correct notions upon constitutional law, which he has not yet altogether forgotten, and which he cannot as easily give up as he can his party name. The speeches of Mr. Ingersoll upon the powers of the Convention and official oaths; of Mr. Bell upon the veto power; of Mr. Woodward upon the executive patronage, and the appointing power; and of Mr. Rogers upon the separation of the powers of government, and the right of suffrage, are certainly admirable specimens of composition and of oratory, and in that view reflect credit upon their authors. Mr. Porter seemed himself more with old saws and maxims than he did the Convention upon important questions. Mr. Brown, of the county, ranked fair as a man of talent; and, which is almost as important to a public man, he well earned the reputation of a "*clever fellow*"

From the scrutiny which I have given into the composition of the body of men, undoubtedly the ablest ever assembled in the State of Pennsylvania, were I asked which was the greatest man in the body, I would answer, If you mean in point of great natural ability, commanding eloquence, and talent fit for any occasion, THADDEUS STEVENS; but if you mean in point of general attainments, and profound reflection upon constitutional law, JOHN SERGEANT, undoubtedly.

WHEAT IN MISSISSIPPI.—The Manchester (Miss.) Whig of the 17th June says that the crops in that State are unusually promising; some of the planters in Holmes county had, at that early date, gathered five crops of wheat, and were preparing it for market. Mississippi will this year raise her own corn and wheat, and make a large portion of the provisions for which she has hitherto been dependent upon other States. Her cotton crop will not fall short of 375,000 bales; this, at ten cents per pound, will amount to $15,000,000, which will greatly overpay her foreign debt, and go a long way towards paying the debt owing by the United States to England.

Henry A. Wise—Temperance.

☞We ask the attention of our readers to the subjoined letter from the Hon. HENRY A. WISE, Member of Congress from Virginia. As the Boston Atlas just by remarks, it sheds new light on that gentleman's character, and gives him increased claims to the confidence and respect of good men.

Letter from the Hon. H. A. Wise to Judge B. P. Hopper.

ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA.,
May 22d, 1837.

Dear Sir: I received your very gratifying letter by the mail before the last, and have to return you my most sincere acknowledgements for the honor of your invitation to attend the Convention of the Maryland State Temperance Society, to be held in the city of Baltimore, on the last Wednesday of this month, and for the flattering terms in which you were pleased to couch your request for me to attend its sitting.

You were correctly informed, sir, when told that I am an advocate of the temperance cause, and I consider it one of the highest compliments you could have paid me to extend it the report. To be a member of a temperance society is to the stranger, with me, one of the highest recommendations of a character, not only free from blame, but free from all the virtues which constitute a good citizen.

It would give me the greatest pleasure to attend the Convention, but very recent domestic afflictions, of the severest kind, compel me to forego that pleasure, and to decline your invitation. I may, however, avail myself very properly, I hope, of this opportunity of bearing my testimony to the effects of Temperance, by vindicating my moral character from the aspersions and calumnies which have been cast upon it by the insinuations of profligate partisans, who have had the humble office in Congress to restore a *pure* and a *free* administration of the government, I have been habitually, or at times, more stimulated by alcohol than by a love of country.

Now, sir, I am but thirty years old, and for the last 8 years and some months of my life, I have not *tasted a table spoonful of ardent spirits or drunk one half a gallon of wine.* In 1829, while residing in Nashville, Tennessee, I became a member of a society to abstain from the use of ardent spirits and was appointed the Corresponding Secretary of the State Temperance Society, of which Philip Lindsay, D D. President of the University of Nashville, was President. Since my return to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, I have been active in forming Societies in the two counties of Accomac and Northampton, and with others have been successful in organizing the number of some five or six embracing in all between two and three hundred members. Since a member of Congress, I defy the malignity of the bitterest and most false political or personal enemy to say or cast the shadow of a doubt upon my adherence to the strictest pledge of a temperance society which permits wine to be tasted at all. I have paid in part the expenses of messes of gentlemen, who at the boarding houses, provide themselves with wine for the tables and for the customs of hospitality to visitors; I have never bought or used ardent spirit at all, and but touched wine at times in observance merely of the forms of society at the Metropolis. I am thus particular in regard to myself, sir, in the fear lest I may most emphatically reply to those who would impair certain statements which I have made as a public man to the

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this three times for the suffrages of the People in the oldest district of Old Virginia, proverbial for "*honey drams*," "*mint julips*," "*egg drams*," "*slings*," "*dew-drops*," and every description of nectared drink, and never found it necessary or requisite to obtain a single vote, to resort to the vulgar grace of a bribe or a glass.

I have written too much, and more than I intended, and must subscribe myself, respectfully yours, the friend of Temperance.

HENRY A. WISE.

Intemperance in Congress.

☞We give in another column an interesting letter from the Hon. HENRY A. WISE, Copying that paragraph relative to drunkenness in Congress, the Baltimore Sun a neutral paper says—

There is not a man in this country, who has attended a session of the United States Congress, who will not bear witness to the truth of every word Mr. Wise has written. Members of Congress are daily seen so drunk in the seats that they can neither stand or walk, and yet those degraded and beastly beings, are called the guardians of the republic. During the last session, a fellow got drunk in the refectory or gin shop beneath the hall of the House of Representatives, staggered into Pennsylvania Avenue, and engaged in a fist fight with a negro. The miserable creature, who was guilty of this most monstrous outrage, pretends to represent the people of an intelligent and a wealthy nation, and whenever he is sober enough to open his mouth, is most vociferous in his declamation about the liberties of the country.

You will find in the American Congress, a greater number of beastly drunkards, than in any other body of people embracing the same number of souls, and the disgraceful evil should be abated. The man who disgraces himself and his country by appearing drunk in Congress, should be expelled; should be indicted by a grand jury, and, on the Fourth of July, by all classes; stores wanted keepers, libraries librarians, drug stores locked pestil-movers, the hucksters turned up their stalls, and the sober and industrious *cities* into *aces* in a jiffy, the steam boats all turned their heads down stream; the lame were carried to the tops of houses; small boats were in requisition to ferry the blind, and big ships had their shrouds shrouded with men; the very dogs ran towards the Navy Yard, shouting as if an earthquake had occurred; houses were emptied of occupants and in some instances did more than able commodities during their absence.

By eleven o'clock the dense crowds in the vicinity of the scene of action assumed nothing like consistency; the mass was a living one, but it looked black, here and there interspersed with the white of ladies' dresses and head gear; for when was there a similar scene in which the ladies did not participate?

We pried many who were not tall enough to see over their male friends, and mentally hoped they would take the hint, and remember that bonnets and long dresses are equally impenetrable at a theatre or a show. Will they forget it next winter?

Quite a limited number of persons were admitted by tickets into the ship house, and but about one hundred were launched in her *with lease* from Commodore Stewart. It was amusing to see the expedients, however,

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whose single broadside will discharge a ton of balls!

By far the most interesting display of shipping, steamboats, and small craft, that we have ever seen on the Delaware, was visible from the top of the ship-house; they were moored in advantageous positions around, and the whole Jersey shore looked like the masses and the the abeams of the Schuylkill. It would be a risk to hazard any calculation of the numbers who gazed on the animating scene; but it will approach somewhat to newspaper accuracy to say that two hundred thousand people had their eyes riveted on the Pennsylvania as she left her domicile. Long may she stem the storms of the sea and the gathering of the worm, to do credit to the name of our great State. Little did William Penn anticipate the launching of such a colossus from the quiet border of his peaceful city.

"Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis."

Who would not be proud to

"Walk the monarch of her peopled deck."

On the Launching of the Pennsylvania.

Aw! away on the ocean, away side!
Away to thy boundless reign!
The Ocean exults to hail his Bride,
From the depths of his vast domain!
The sea-nymphs of each coral grove
Chant forth a welcoming strain,
And the countless forms in the waves that rove
Are waiting to form thy train—
Then proudly be thy wings unfurl'd,
Let nought thy flight restrain,—
Go forth, the wonder of the world!
Thy country's power sustain!
Queen of the Waters! through the sky
Let echo answer,
Till the distant isles of the sea reply
To the willdly-pal'd acclaim!
With thy glorious Banner waving high,
A pledge of the Nation's fame!
Oh! well may our hopes on thee rely,
And our lips thy might proclaim.
Then onward! on, thy trackless path!
While true to thy Spring-tide
May'st thou ride secure thro' the tempest's wrath
And the foeman's hostile hate.
May faithful hearts and gallant hands
Thy bold adventure guide,
And the reign of the Dolphin Pirate's bands
Be quell'd before thy pride.
May the Sheve-ship vainly strive to flee
From thy canvas floating wide,—
And be captive gladly welcome thee
As their fetters are cast aside;
May tyranny and malice quail
Before thy veteran tried,
And the weak reeds, when thro' them thy snowy sail
O'er the wave is seen to glide.
To Him, whose word alone hath power
To still the troubled sea,
When the storm-tossed vessel shall darkly lour
To Him we pray for thee;
That guarded by His hand of might,
Thy strength may ever be
A shelter to the weak and slight
And crown'd with victory:
That thy return may be a sign
For a Nation's jubilee,
When the heirs shall hear thee now shall join
In the anthem of the Free!

B.

[☞ Judging from the style and signature of the above beautiful poetical article, we presume it to be the production of the talented and fair contributor to the dest of the "Franklin Repository," (B.) one of whose productions, furnished by a friend, will be found on our first page.—EDS. STAR.]

From Poulson's Advertiser [Philadelphia] of July 19.

THE LAUNCH OF THE SHIP PENNSYLVANIA!

Yesterday was an era in the annals of Philadelphia. It was ushered upon for the launch of the noble ship of the state of Pennsylvania, the largest vessel ever built on the American waters. So long had the event been anticipated, and so lively were the expectations formed of her launch, that it is no wonder that not only all Philadelphians but all their neighbors, and many from more distant positions, were anxious to avail themselves of the spectacle. Accordingly, all the avenues to the docks and stages which arrived on Monday and yesterday were more than filled; they were literally piled with people, and *all* the sleeping apartments of the city and its environs were occupied by some of them indeed doing *double* duty.—We are glad to say the exhibition was successful—every thing *went off* as expected; no accident occurred, which not all were grateful in the extreme; the machinery was perfect, and the great star of the day acquitted itself in a manner which can never be excelled. The audience was numerous and crowded, if not select, and did ample justice to the performance by plaudits loud and long.

The day was fine, though hot, and was considered a holy-day as much as any fourth of July, by all classes; stores wanted keepers, libraries librarians, drug stores locked pestil-movers, the hucksters turned up their stalls, and the sober and industrious *cities* into *aces* in a jiffy, the steam boats all turned their heads down stream; the lame were carried to the tops of houses; small boats were in requisition to ferry the blind, and big ships had their shrouds shrouded with men; the very dogs ran towards the Navy Yard, shouting as if an earthquake had occurred; houses were emptied of occupants and in some instances did more than able commodities during their absence.

By eleven o'clock the dense crowds in the vicinity of the scene of action assumed nothing like consistency; the mass was a living one, but it looked black, here and there interspersed with the white of ladies' dresses and head gear; for when was there a similar scene in which the ladies did not participate?

We pried many who were not tall enough to see over their male friends, and mentally hoped they would take the hint, and remember that bonnets and long dresses are equally impenetrable at a theatre or a show. Will they forget it next winter?

Quite a limited number of persons were admitted by tickets into the ship house, and but about one hundred were launched in her *with lease* from Commodore Stewart. It was amusing to see the expedients, however,

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adopted by several boys as the preparations proceeded. A few went up ropes which hung by the ship's sides; seven or eight contrived to pass a board from the staging which ran round the ship into one of the port holes; this they adroitly crossed and drew their bridge after them.

The ship is estimated at 3000 tons; she rested on 1000 square feet, and every square inch it was calculated bore a weight of 46 pounds upon it.

The following is given as her dimensions.

The Keel of the PENNSYLVANIA was laid in November, 1822.

DIMENSIONS.	Feet	Inches
Length between the Perpendiculars,	210	
Beam Mould,	56	9
Depth of hold to gun deck,	23	
Deadwood,		7
Ceiling, plank, from keelson to floor head,	8	
Thickness of Floor Timber,	8	
Tonnage, 3000.		
Length of lower gun deck port sill,	27	8
do do middle do do	34	11 1-2
do do upper do do	42	11 1-2
do do stern deck,	47	11
Rake of stern post,	3	6
Rake of stem,	7	6
Length of keel for tonnage,	173	6
Length of keel for upper mast still, to } under side of rail, }	3	9
Height of spar deck port sill from keel } line }	47	11
Height from base line to under part of } rail at dead flat, }	51	8
Length of lower gun deck,	205	6
Breadth of do. do.	55	5
Length of main gun deck,	212	
Breadth of do. do.	54	9
Length of upper gun deck,	217	
Breadth of do. do.	51	6
Length of spar deck,	219	
Breadth of do. do.	46	6
Extreme breadth,	58	1 1-2
Height from spar deck to stern gallery,	247	6
Height from bottom of keel to top of } rail amidships, }	54	9
Depth of hold to orlop deck,	15	3
Thickness of deck,		4
Height between the lower gun deck } and orlop deck, }	7	5
From lower gun deck to main deck,	6	6
do do upper deck,	7	3
do do spar deck,	7	4
From upper gun deck to spar deck } deck, }	3	1-2
From timber streak to spar deck,	45	6
Diameter across the port,	7	10
Height of the ports,	3	4
Sweep of do.	4	
Lower gun deck ports, (number)	32	
Main do do do	34	
Upper do. do. do.	36	
Spar do do do.	36	
Length from fore part of stem to aft } side of stern at height of spar } deck, }	224	
Whole length of keel,	195	6
Length. Diameter. Mast Head.		
Main Mast, feet. Inches. feet.		
do Topmast, 70 23 12		
do Top Gallant mast, 41 13 6		
do Royal mast, 24 9 1-2		
do Flag Pole, 16		
Total height, 233 feet.		
Fore Mast, 120 44 20		
do Topmast, 62 21 1-2 10		
do Top Gallant mast, 37 6 in. 12		
do Royal mast, 22 8		
do Flag Pole, 10		
252 6		
Mizen Mast, 99 34 47		
do Topmast, 52 18		
do Top Gallant mast, 33 6 in. 9 1-2		
do Royal Mast, 20 7		
do Flag Pole, 8 6		
216		

Mizen mast steps on the orlop deck.

	Feet.	Inches.	Feet diameter.	Yard Arm.
Main Yard,	110	24	2	7
do Topgall yard,	82	18	1	6
do Top gallant do.	52	11	1	3
do Royal do.	36	7	1	6 in.
do Skysail do.	24	5		
Fore Yard	100	22	2	0
do Topsail Yard,	75	16	1	6 6 in.
do Topgall yard,	48	10	1	1
do Royal do	33		1	1-2 1 6
do Skysail do	22		1	1-2 1 6
Mizen or Cross jack.	80	16	1	6
do Topsail yard,	52	11		
do Top gallant do	33		1	1-2 1 6
do Royal do	22	15		9
do Spritsail yard	52	11		
Bowsprit,	80	16	56 ft. out board.	
Jib boom,	65.		3 feet head 18 1-2 in diameter. 40 feet in board.	

Flying Jibboom 22 feet out board, 12 inches diameter.
Jib of Jibboom, 12 do do 6 feet pole added, 7 1-2 inches diameter.
Spanker boom 60 feet long, 13 inches diameter.
Height from water line to main truck 229 feet.
do do fore truck 217
do do mizen 196

Draught of Water 25 feet.

Mounts 136 Guns.

The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Dickerson, arrived at the yard about eleven o'clock, and inspected the preparations with great interest. The blocks from the keel were knocked away gradually, from stem to stern, as the tide rose, and by two o'clock every arrangement seemed to be complete. Immediately the signal was given and the vessel was fired, and the flag from the top of the building hauled down, as a signal to the boats in the river to beware, and for the eyes to look. The moment of the launch was then commenced cheerily; when this was completed she still hung for a few moments, till the beams, manned by thirty men each, were brought into action; a few strokes from these, and the wedges driven where the saw had penetrated, put her in motion on the well-greased ways. When started, she moved about as rapidly as a man could run. We followed her on the staging till she left the house, and saw the ceremony of the bottle, or christening, performed by Commodore Biddle, as she touched "her destined element." Hercules, the figure-head, grinned a savage smile, (it is the homelliest figure-head we ever saw,) and the great hulk moved majestically majestic into the stream, amid the shouts of many thousand voices, and the whole affair terminated without any thing to mar its pleasure. Mr. Humphreys, the naval architect, conducted the whole operation with decision and calmness; every body was perfectly acquainted with the part he was to perform. About one hundred men were employed, which quietly at his post till the word of command was given; Mr. Humphreys and his assistants have great cause to be proud of their success.

Commodores Stewart and Barron, who were actively on duty, won all suffrages by their urbanity and attention to the invited guests.

The "mountain wave" which had been predicted, disappointed the audience by not appearing. There was not more motion than is occasioned by a steamboat in passing; a little rocking was perceptible, but it was surprisingly small, owing probably to the gradual mode in which the ship entered the water. An empty house is now all that marks the birth-place of the great wonder of the seas, whose utmost height, when rigged, is to be 235 feet, and

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was anticipated. It is hoped that patient perseverance will gain the end. It doubtless will, if the Christian public do not defeat them, and if they themselves evince their purpose to be worthy of all the immunities enjoyed by their fellow-citizens.—*Cleveland Journal.*

NAVIGATION OF THE WISCONSIN.—It is stated in the Free Press, published at Mineral Point, that two steamboats, the Science and Envoy, had ascended as high as Helena, and that one of them had gone up as high as the Portage, without meeting the ordinary difficulties to be encountered in the navigation of new streams of even larger dimensions.

Late from Texas.

NACOGDOCHES, (TEX.) June 28.

By the politeness of a gentleman who has just arrived here from Texas, we learn that the volunteers who left Nacogdoches in the latter part of last month, in pursuit of some hostile Indians who had been committing depredations and murder, have returned without being able to find any of the hostile tribes.

Pr. Sherman and Lieut. Eaton, who were despatched by the United States Government into Texas, for the purpose of ascertaining the truth in relation to depredations having been committed by the Caddoes and other Indians from the United States, have returned to Fort Jesup and handed in their report to the commandant of that post. What that is, or how it may affect the Indian relations of Texas, is not yet known.

The Congress of Texas have adjourned. They have passed a law declaring that the land office shall be opened on the first of October last, and have made provision for sectionizing the country, in a manner similar to the system pursued in the United States.

A minister has been sent to England, and a commissioner appointed to sign the one appointed by the United States, for the purpose of running the boundary line between the two countries.

Pr sident Houston is to be at Nacogdoches on the 30th instant, for the purpose of holding "a talk" with the friendly Indians of that vicinity. Gen. Thomas R. Rusk has been appointed by the President to give the Indians notice of the President's intentions, and of his desire to meet their chiefs at Nacogdoches as soon as practicable.

The crops of Texas, which will consist almost entirely of corn, promise to yield a rich harvest.

From the Pittsburgh Advertiser of July 19.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

Canal boats crossing the Portage summit on the Railroad.

We saw, on Tuesday evening last, a boat lying in the canal basin that had been loaded at Philadelphia with fifteen tons of merchandise; put on the railroad, along which it was run to Columbia, where it took to its proper element, and was dragged, like all of its species have been heretofore, through the canal, to the Portage Railroad. Where it again came from the water, was moved steadily and safely with all its burthen over the mountains, until, arriving at Johnstown, it betook itself once more to the element, in which it was intended to move, and we presume will not, until it reaches that place again on its return eastward.

This is the invention of Mr. Dougherty, one of the proprietors of the Reliance Line. That company have already built five of the same construction. The full capacity of one of them is 80 tons, but they have already arrived here; so soon as the railroad is in readiness the whole course to Harrisburg, goods will be carried in this manner from Philadelphia in twenty days; transhipment will be entirely done away with.

These boats are calculated to carry twenty tons each, and are so light as very light yet strong construction. About midship there is a joint, by which the boat is divided as it leaves the water, and by which it is reunited when it enters it again. The time necessary for uniting or separating the parts is said not to be more than five minutes, and the joint is perfectly secure from leaking.

Of course a patent has been secured by the ingenious and enterprising inventor. He deserves to make a handsome profit, and no doubt he will.

A thunder storm on the night of the 4th instant, produced a great freshet in French creek, Crawford county. The rise of the water resulted in the loss of property exceeding $100,000. Fortunately, however, no lives were lost—but whole fortunes were swept away.

VERB ANTIQUE MARBLE.—It is well known to many, that, several years since, a quarry of this extraordinary marble was discovered within a few miles of New Haven. It was partially worked; but the moderate capital of an individual was not sufficient to open the quarry with success. A company was subsequently formed for the purpose of extensive operations. A specimen of the marble has been left at our office, and for beauty and polish we can conceive of nothing superior. It is said to resemble the ancient green marble of Lacedemon which, for its cheerful and lively green colors, intermingled with the snowy white, was esteemed the most precious of the world.

ALAS, POOR POLAND!—Warsaw is said to be now completely Jewish. The principal palaces are in possession of the Jews, who, after the Russian Generals and Colonels, are the most distinguished personages in the capital. The poor Poles continue to be oppressed by their hard masters. Polish functionaries are gradually removed from their places, which are being filled with needy Russians, who arrive in shoals from the confines of Asia.

RIPE TEETH.—"Doctor," said an innocent colored man the other day, "Doctor, I'm come to see if my teeth is fit to pull." "Fit to pull! do you say?" inquired the doctor, "what's the matter, do you think they are ripe?" "Why, they trouble me sometimes, but that doctor up to the New Market says they don't want no pullin."

STAR & REPUBLICAN BANNER.

BY ROBERT W. MIDDLETON.

GETTYSBURGH, PA.

FRIDAY, July 21, 1837.

☞The Wagon price of Flour in Baltimore—8½ to 8¾.

Mrs. Lydia Jane Peirson.

☞We select the following notices of the late article in our paper from the pen of Mrs. LYDIA JANE PEIRSON, from papers Edited by men of talent and fully competent to judge of the merits of such productions. Such notices cannot but be gratifying to Mrs. Peirson—at least we are gratified that her labors are so justly appreciated. The article in question, was from the Philadelphia Inquirer, one of the readiest and best conducted of the present day, and is as follows:—

An eloquent tribute to one of the most eminent citizens of Pennsylvania, appeared in a late number of the Gettysburg Star.—It is from the pen of Mrs. LYDIA JANE PEIRSON, and shall have place in our columns forthwith. Mrs. P. has written some poetry that would not discredit the most distinguished female writers of the present day.

"THE HONORED OF FAME."—This just tribute is inscribed to one who, for his disinterested and powerful efforts in the cause of popular education and the rights of the countrymen—for whose welfare he feels the liveliest interest, and to whom his every energy is devoted. It is from the pen of a gifted lady, who, though modestly, has provided with this world's goods, is rich in all that makes woman great; or adorns human nature.—*Pennsylvania Telegraph.*

A beautiful poem, inscribed to the "Noble Advocate of Free School Education," will be found on our fourth page. It is a rich and deserved tribute to one whose resistless eloquence and fervid zeal in behalf of General Education, unequivocally preponderated the scale of Legislative sentiment and introduced the Common School System as part and parcel of our statute book.

[*Lancaster Union.*

THE LADY'S BOOK.

☞The July No. of this agreeable "Book" has been received, and gives evidence that its enterprising conductors do not flag in their efforts to please. It is embellished with a steel plate Frontispiece, and contains many interesting articles such as "The Wealth of Nature." by Miss Anna J. Reid; continuation of "Pelico's New Tragedies," by Mrs. E. F. Ellet; "The New-Year's Gift," by Edward Lancaster, (a part of which will be found on first page;) "The Season of Flowers," by Mrs. Harrison Smith; besides various contributions from Mrs. Sarah J. Hale and other celebrated authors. No Lady should be without this "Book," and none other than a crusty old Bachelor will longer deprive himself of so interesting, as well as agreeable "Companion."

The Launch.

☞We refer our readers to another column for an interesting account of the launch on Tuesday last, of the Ship PENNSYLVANIA.

Little's Museum.

☞This valuable periodical has not been received at this office for several months. The February number was the last received. We trust that it has not been suffered to languish and die.

President Krauth.

☞At the late commencement of the *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia City, the honorary degree of DOCTOR OF DIVINITY was conferred on Rev. CHARLES F. KRAUTH, Professor of Pennsylvania College, of this place. That distinguished honor could not have been conferred upon a more worthy gentleman.

☞The National Intelligencer states that a Convention of twenty-five Presbyteries repudiated the late General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to be held at Auburn, N. Y., on the 17th of August next.

The Reform Convention.

☞The Reform Convention adjourned on Friday last, *after a session of two and an half months*, to meet again on the 17th October, next. The daily expense of this body while in session was ELEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS, a sum greater than the amount of the benefit which the people are likely to derive from its labors. In our opinion, it would have been better for the people to have paid the Radical members to remain at home and keep their profane hands from the Constitution. The instrument was the source of no grievance; yet the Radicals hawk at and tear it as if it were a fountain of mischief! God send, that the one which they will give us in its stead, shall be as sufficient for the protection of our Liberty as as the one they are laboring but too successfully to destroy.

Our own members, Messrs. STEVENS & M'SHERRY have acted nobly therein in resisting the attacks made upon the Charter of our Liberties. At every step, they have opposed the schemes of the Radicals, and shown that they could resist if nothing but mischief to the people; but it availed not that their authors were exhibited in their true characters, as Conspirators against the Public Welfare! The Constitution, as now amendment; and no exertions, however great, can receive it from the Goths and Vandals who, barbarian like, are tearing it to pieces, because it indicates a reaction in political and social government ungrateful in the eyes of those analogues of primary Democracy! Still, after more than two months' session, these men have done nothing but waste the people's money, except to manifest a determination that not a vestige of our old, long-tried Constitution shall remain, if they are able to effect its destruction!

We have never doubted that some judicious amendments might be serviceable; but a radical and entire change, we most sincerely deprecate. We have lived happily and safely under the present Constitution, and we have learned to dread "EXPERIMENTS." The one made by General Jackson on the Currency, has been enough, in all conscience, for the present generation.

Look at this!

☞Before the adjournment of the Convention, Mr. STEVENS offered a resolution *to submit the amendments, already made, to the people at the approaching election*, also to submit *whether the Convention should assemble again or not*, ☞but the Radicals are not yet satisfied—they have not yet finished the business of destruction, or considered sufficient of the People's money! *They would not agree to these resolutions!!!*

The Constution.

☞It was said by the celebrated, but unfortunate CICERO, that the British Constitution, as it is to be found in *Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights*, has in it so much (at is good and worthy of preservation, that its destruction would be the most melancholy thing that could happen, both to Englishmen and the world. Such an event would retrograde the march of improvement many centuries of years; and he that could coolly set about to effect it, must unite the phrensy of the maniac with the malignity of the demon.

Such were the sentiments of a patriotic Englishman in relation to the Constitution of his country—an instrument far less perfect and excellent than ours. He was unwilling to risk its destruction in *hope of a better*. The Constitution had been found sufficient for the protection of the people in most of their relations; and liberal as he was, and friendly as he had proved himself to the cause of popular rights, he thought it preferable to bear with some oppression and hardship than risk many certain valuable privileges by suffering it to be torn to fragments in the rage for reform. How much more should we deprecate the destruction of our Constitution, which is as perfect as it is likely ever to be made! No one complains of its oppression or hardship; the high and the low, the rich and the poor, are alike protected and restrained.

The same writer says that "we ought never to be over-anxious to encourage innovations in cases of doubtful improvement." And the reason is that an old system must ever have two advantages over a new one—namely, *that it is established*, and IT IS UNDERSTOOD. Let the people beware of those who style themselves "reformers;" who *profess* to be their friends, and actuated by that feeling alone in the war which they are waging against the Constitution. These men will be the last to feel the ills which are the consequences of their miserable doctrines shall arrive!

Fellow-Citizens! You have lived safely and happily under the Constitution formed by your Fathers. Be careful how you change it for one which, notwithstanding the efforts of the patriotic and the good, will teem with the principles of Designers and Demagogues.

Highly important!

☞For the last few weeks, Col. Cunnehauseen, who has been conducting the Compiler in the absence of Major Gulliver, has been trying to skill us up," in order that he with Master retained might be enabled to say, "behold what good service I have done in your absence!" We have not—nor shall we now be so "malignant" as to notice *him or his inconsistencies*. As the great Gulliver himself *has returned*, we may expect to be edified and instructed by his "travels" for years to come! *That* will be ample compensation for all that Munchausen has said about us! We hope the Major will furnish us with a supplement, so that we can "puff" his "Book of Travels" by the time it issues from the press.

Modesty!

☞The *modesty* of our Masonic friends of the "Virginia Republican" exceeds all bounds! "John Quincy Adams in vain endeavored to draw the Hon. Edward Livingston out in debate, "and—we (the *little Republican*, of course, can-men) intend to pursue the same course which he (the GREAT Livingston!) thought proper to adopt on that occasion!" Bless us, "how we appreciate it!"

The Republican wishes us to visit the tomb of Washington "to take a lesson," and "learn the true principles of Masonry!" What is there *there* of Masonry we have not received? We know that it has not been suffered to languish and die.

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