GETTYSBURG, PENN.
MORNING, SEPT. 15, 1837.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION.

Highly Interesting Debate!

In the Convention to amend the Constitution, on the 8th of July last, Mr. DENNY, (*ex Masonic*) presented a petition from sundry free citizens of color of Pittsburgh, remonstrating against the adoption of any provision depriving free colored citizens from the right of suffrage—Mr. Denny moved that the petition be referred to the Committee on the 9th article.

Mr. INGERSOLL, (*a Van Buren man*) after some remarks on the importance of the subject presented in the memorial, in reference to the character of this body, the interests of this State, and the harmony of the United States, suggested the propriety of referring it to a special committee, as the committee on the 9th article was in effect *functus officio*. At the same time, he suggested, that he thought, when the memorial was read, that it contained language very harsh against citizens of other States, whose misfortune it was, as he considered it, to hold slaves. He was not sure yet that this was the fact, and for this reason, while we views it with proper attention, he thought it proper to avoid any precipitation, particularly as, at this stage of the session, the subject to which it relates could not be acted on.

Mr. STEVENS said, in the proper motion, it appeared to him, would be to print the memorial. He advocated the right of the petitioners to present a petition on this or any subject relative to the business before the Convention. The documents accompanying the paper were of importance in connection with the question to which it refers, and which question he certainly could before it at a distant time. The question was, whether we should grant the passage of the petition, but whether we should receive it, and treat it with the same degree of courtesy that we gave to other petitions.

Mr. INGERSOLL (*Van Buren*) spoke at some length, against making a special order for printing this petition. In the course of his remarks, he said that like Gibbon, he had fallen into the English error, in reference to his views on the right of petition, that the people ought to petition those whom they send to represent them. He acknowledged the abandonment of the doctrine of Adams, (*Mr. Stevens,*) on this question, was too much like the southern manner of debate, declamation without the coolness of argument. He said that he had listened to the gentleman from Philadelphia, with the statesman of the south, not to respect their feelings, although he might not agree with them to sentiment. He was opposed to getting up a party and question agitation, which tended only in an injury to the black man, and tending to embroil the states in a contest which will end only in bad feeling. He trusted that the petition would not be printed.

Mr. CHAMBERS (*Anti-Van Buren*) remarked that the Convention was in the exercise of powers affecting the rights of the petitioners, and respecting which they had a right to be heard. All who have addressed the Convention on this subject, have conceded that this paper was deserving of consideration, and the only question was the form of consideration. He thought it should be referred to a committee, or be laid on the table, and printed for the use of the Convention.

It was immaterial what was the form of the petition, or what it was proper for it to be referred to the committee and action of this Convention, and was not offensive in its language. It imparted information of the moral and intellectual condition of the coloured population of our western city, which he was glad to see. But, as the committee on the subject had reported, and the article in relation to the elective franchise was before the Convention, there was no occasion to refer it to a committee, or that the attention of a committee be directed to it. It is sufficient that it be in the possession of the Convention, which it will be by being laid on the table and printed.

Mr. CLARKE (*Van Buren*) said he was great Author of the Universe, when he created the Heavens and the earth, had made a distinction in the races of men! He had made the black man as he had, and the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the Leopard his spots! He then referred to the Bible, where those who served God and wrought righteousness, held men in servitude!—He said, they were a degraded race, and had always been so from the time of Ham to the present! He believed that it was the intention of Providence that they should be kept in bondage. He was opposed to any thing which would smother the petition, and presented an obstruction. Whether his arguments were sound or not, as the respectable and logical gentleman from the county of Philadelphia had turned them, he would not now consider; but, as he had been addressed, he would take the gentleman's very published and logical argument to pieces, and see how consistent it was. The gentleman says the Scriptures do not give the language of Divine inspiration, but are the composition of men, and have no right to petition; nor ought ever to petition; and that it was only under arbitrary governments in Europe, where no power is exerted to grant them, that they can petition. The Bill of Rights says:

"That the citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble for their common good, and to apply to those entrusted with the powers of government for redress of grievance, or other proper purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance."

Now, when he says that the people have no right to apply for a redress of grievance by petition, and that such a right is a badge of slavery, does he mean to say, that the rights of the people do not be secured in the Constitution? In the Constitution to be considered as annulled and abrogated, and some wild fancies, which have been brought to light in certain letters, set up in its place? Is the government to be made to depend on a wild modern theory? If the Constitution was not the charter of the rights of the people, what was it—Did the gentleman intend to repudiate the obligation of any written Constitution? He understood the gentleman very plainly to intimate further, that colored persons had not this right, because they were not *citizens* of the Commonwealth. Taking this further position, that colored persons are not citizens—how can he say consistently, with his first position, that they are not entitled to petition? If they were not citizens, but subject to the arbitrary will of the government—then, according to the gentleman's own theory, they had the right of petition. If the gentleman's argument then proved any thing, it proved that coloured persons have no right to petition, and that white citizens have not. [Mr. INGERSOLL here explained, that he had merely spoken of the petitioners as persons calling themselves citizens.]

The State Constitution, said Mr. Stevens, secures the right of petition to *citizens*;" and if colored men are not citizens, then they have the right on the further ground, which has been assumed by the gentleman, that subjects may petition to those who are placed over them. Have the blacks no right to petition, because they are degraded and debased? And is the Christian Scripture to be brought here to prove that they are not to be treated as human beings, because they had been bonded and oppressed? He had not expected in a body like this, composed of men who were thought fit to represent the feelings and principles of a great, and liberal, and humane Commonwealth, to hear such sentiments avowed. He did not expect to hear it contended here, that God did not, out of one clay, create all mankind; nor to hear the Holy Scriptures cited as an apology and license for oppression. That they are degraded, no matter by whose acts, is a reason why we should receive their humble supplications in a spirit of humanity and mercy. But when they have been reduced to this degraded condition by our acts and whenever have been prevented by us from rising in the scale of moral dignity, shall we turn upon them, and say—we have debased you—we have decreed that you shall never improve your condition—and how dare you come here with petitions to be allowed to participate in any of the privileges of freemen? Are not these men worthy of our consideration as human beings? He would not be told that this was declamation; but he trusted, that it would be more acceptable to him who heard petitions, than to the slave-holders, and the slave-holders' advocate. For his part, this declamation, as it was called, he would not exchange for the thousands which had been made by the advocacy of slavery. The gentleman said the language of Divine inspiration was harsh to the south, and to those gentlemen who had been so much honored and flattered by the southern slave-holders, and they ought not to be attacked. Is this, asthe *Surplus Revisionist*, which indeed we are not surprised the Administration party have given all the funds of the federal Government in their hands, and aim to secure that of the States likewise! We have in the Message *acknowledgment* that the "Experiment" of General Jackson on the currency has proved an UTTER FAILURE—to which we invite the sober attention of the people; and also to the fact that in the *Sub-Treasury* scheme Van Buren is attempting another experiment which will in the end prove even more destructive than that of his predecessor. It will be seen that the Treasury System is to be composed of *bonds!* at intervals of $60,000 a piece—the aggregate making $60,000 per annum for the principals. This will render about ONE THOUSAND under officers necessary, who will be scattered through the country, at heavy salaries, living and supported by the earnings of the people.

A most potent engine for the *enforcement* of the wishes of the dominant party will thus be created under the specious pretence of transacting the fiscal affairs of the government—and the power of the executive will be immeasurably INCREASED and consolidated. We will have among us a little monarchy, with an aristocracy as odious as that of Turkey.

From the Richmond (Va.) Whig.

THE MESSAGE.

It is evident from the whole tone of the message, that "the party" hope they can now compass the long cherished scheme of their ambition, and *wring from the distresses* of suffering of the people a legalized union of the purse and the sword. Under the specious and delusive pretext of divorcing "the government" and banks, the effort is made to compel the subject the money power of the Government to the control of the Executive.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

THE MESSAGE.

The Richmond Enquirer is altogether *against* the Sub-Treasury scheme recommended in the President's Message. This inventorate enemy of paper quotes some very strong arguments against the corrupt scheme of throwing the whole revenue of the country into the complete possession of the office-holders; and of making a hard money currency for their use, exclusively, while the difference thus legalized will tend to increase the difficulties in the way of restoring health to the general currency of the country, by a return to specie payments—If such a dangerous scheme should, by any possibility, be carried out, there cannot be a doubt that it would seriously retard, and certainly postpone, the return of the banks to specie payments. Such a course of legalizing a hard money currency for the office-holders, would inevitably tend to keep up a demand for specie, for this specific purpose, and maintain it at a premium, which would greatly counteract the efforts and arrangements of the moneyed institutions of the country, for bringing about an early resumption of specie payments. The whole system and measures of the Government, being thus wielded in effect against a return to the banks to specie payments—it might possibly prevent such a return, until a very distant day, or altogether, and thus secure indefinitely the gold and silver in the country, for the use of the office-holders!

From the New Yorker, (neutral paper.)

THE MESSAGE.

The Message is out at last. There are no two ways about it. "The divorce of Bank and State" is beneceiffth the cue.—We are now to have that for the last act of the grand drama of "The Experiment" which should have been the first. It has been all along apparent that Mr. Van Buren must take this ground, or abandon all that upon which he has hitherto stood. To recede was certain destruction; to advance—but we make no pretensions to prophecy.

There is one portion of the logic of the President which strikes us as palpably inconclusive; and, since we shall probably not get to the bottom of the matter, we shall pardon a brief allusion to it. It is that in which, treating of the causes of our troubles, he argues that they cannot have arisen from any fault of our institutions, because England, though she has not been experimenting, suffers with us. Our objection, be it remarked, lies against the premises, not against the inference. The Message does not find a full view of the facts. England suffers, not from a depreciated currency or disordered exchanges; her calamity is very different from ours. She suffers mainly because we do not take one-fourth as many goods from her as we did last year, which stops her manufactories and knocks down all prices, and because we do not pay for those we have had, which leaves her banks, merchants and manufacturers. We have failed, and in so doing have deranged the markets and the commerce of the world; there is no mystery in this. It is just as when the failure of an extensive house in London carries with it others in Calcutta, Canton, Smyrna, and perhaps the West Indies. You may set on a dozen clowns to talk at the Bank, and the failure now has caused so many others at many thousands of miles' distance, but the fact is not disproved. Now the logic of the President is like this: Suppose a dozen individuals, wealthy, engaged in all manner of wild speculations and reckless extravagance, and finally fails, as is very natural. In so doing, he carries down three or four of his prudent and worthy neighbors, who may have undertaken to be responsible. He is of course reproached for his misdoings. "You mistake, gentlemen," is his triumphant answer: "If speculation and extravagance are the course of the Bank of England last winter and less considerably the Specie Circular here—both of them tending to curtail credits and reduce Bank issues.—These laid the axe at the root of the tree! The growth of the tree was of course antecedent. But we shall see more with respect to this subject. The parallel drawn by the President between England and this country provoke the following reflections: 1. England, with a National Bank, has passed the ordeal without any suspension of specie payments or depreciation of her currency; and without any serious diminution of the public revenue; the United States has been and still is the theatre of a general bankruptcy—industry and commerce, and people, alike unable to fulfil strictly their engagements. 2. England, though losing by every failure in other countries, stands erect, and has not had one fourth as many bankruptcies as this country, though we have not lost a dollar by foreign failures. We fancy there is little consolation to be gleaned from a comparison of our own condition with that of other nations.

Correspondence of the Lancaster Union.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9, 1837.

The message will be voted down in Congress, with a full understanding by the leaders of the present administration that the President will *yield, cheerfully, to the views of Congress.* The fact is, and has been admitted by some of the original and yet adhering Jackson men, but who are opposed to any further *experiments* on the currency. The fact is notorious that the message has been shaped to please the Kitchen Cabinet, *at the head of which is Andrew Jackson!!* Van Buren knew well that he must at once lose that powerful influence, if he yielded without a struggle to the popular change in sentiment. He is truly the magician. He secures the popularity of the old hero by *appearing to sustain his views*, and by afterwards falling in with the views of Congress he thinks he will, *as a matter of course, secure the sanction of the people!!!* He is literally despised by the honest of all parties. A more unprincipled politician cannot be found in the whole Union.

The National Intelligencer of Saturday last, contains the Report from the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress, which accompanied the President's Message to that body. It is of enormous length. It "transcribes," says the Intelligencer, "nearly the same ground as the Message, corresponds with almost every statement and sentiment of that Message, and arrives at the same general conclusions."

Among the *conclusions* to which a perusal of this Report have led the able Editors of the National Intelligencer, they say is this—"that there is no way but one by which those that administer the Government can in any considerable degree repair the wrong they have done; and that is, by retracing their steps, and doing it at once. They have driven the ship of State into a monsoon, in which every convulsive effort to drag it out they plunge it only deeper and deeper. There is neither road nor solid ground in the direction of which they are pressing on. Before them, and on all sides of them, is a wilderness of quicksands, vast as the Serbonian bog of old, "where armies whole have sunk!" There is no safety nor any hope for them but in retreat. The only path by which they can retreat is that by which they advanced to where they are, and, returning upon their track, they will arrive at the point from which they started, and may set out again in the safe road which, in the intoxication and vanity of power, they wilfully departed from."

The votes of the House, on several questions, by yeas and nays, shew a clear majority of about 25 votes directly condemning and rebuking the whole course embraced in the late Message of the President, and generally the doctrines which have been promulged through official channels as those of the Administration, since the suspension of specie payments by the Banks.—*Nat. Int.*

From the Boston Atlas.

Increase of Banking Capital

The Globe charges upon the Whigs the guilt of having produced the present pecuniary distress by over banking. We recommend to its attention the following statistical facts, furnished by a correspondent of the Merchant Watchman. The increase of banking capital mentioned below dates only from the death of the United States Bank.—The sum total of the increase in the nine States mentioned, is $37,391,466, or nearly eight thousand, nine hundred and forty-eight dollars!

1. I refer to Maine, which elected Messrs. Shepley and Ruggles to the U. States Senate, and has increased its banking capital from

$2,050,000 to $3,459,850.

2. I refer to New Hampshire, which has augmented its banking capital from

$1,701,270 to $5,655,008.

3. I refer to Connecticut, which sent Dr. Niles to the Senate, and has increased its banking capital from

$4,485,177 to $7,450,766.

4. I refer to New York, which gives an enormous increase, from

$25,381,450 to $37,381,456.

5. I refer to Louisiana, which elected a Van Buren Senator, (Mr. Nicholas,) and granted a small increase of banking capital, from

$27,172,145 to $47,000,000.

6. I refer to Mississippi, which substituted Walker for Poindexter, and has increased its bank capital from

$950,600 to $4,890,382.

7. I refer to Ohio, which, through a Whig State now, has had and now has a Van Buren Legislature. The increase is

$5,000,000.

8. I refer to Tennessee, until recently an Administration State, where the increase is from

$737,817 to $2,890,881.

9. I refer to Missouri, under the charge of that *father of humbugs, T. H. Benton*; it has increased its banking capital from *nothing* to

$5,000,000.

A LONG NOSE.—Napoleon used to say, "strange as it may appear, when I want any good hard work done, I choose a man, provided his education has been suitable, with a long nose. His breathing is bold and free, and his brain, as well as his lungs and heart, cool and free." In my observation of men I have almost invariably found the long nose and a long head go together."

Rev. E. K. Avery, who was tried for murder in Rhode Island a few years since, has been restored to his standing in the ministry, and assigned a location.

The Yellow Fever now rages at New Orleans. The whole number of deaths is about thirty per day.

Bowering Proceedings.

Wise Man!

We have just received from Rockaway the following "petition" from our friend "the Major," addressed to Congress—"the representatives of the people."

We have, we confess, been led into the popular belief that nothing short of *absolute power* can stay the flood of notable character at least, could *life* as out of our present difficulty,—but we find that we, in common with a large and extended circle, are in error—and that what we come to *lifting* we want a *power* of a directly opposite character. We further confess that we never have seen the credit system *shadowed forth* more adroitly and more appropriately. The Major will see, when he comes to get the President's Message, that the President don't agree with him as to the *expediency* of putting off the "Two Follies," or well Poll-Polly—though he does indirectly hint at the use of something not unlike the Major's plan, in the way of *lifting* the "Two Follies" with Notes. We expect now to hear from the Major on the matters introduced in the Message, and as the President very frankly asks free discussion, we shall no doubt, soon be able to see through the "fog bank," if we can't through other Banks.

To the Representatives of the people of the United States of North America, in Congress at Washington.

ROCKAWAY, Sept. 4th, 1837.

Near the window of the Two Follies.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,—I have been waiting for this day to come ever since the Two Follies were run on shore by Captain Jackson, for I could lay the case right afore the hull people in one swing, for there is no way of gettin any mail afore the people, but through the Post Office, till their representatives all git together at Washington in Congress—and I took upon you just as I would on a sheet of paper, folded down to a quart—for the hull barrel is in that quart, and just so the hull people are in you.

I suppose you all know that the Two Follies is on shore, and that owin to that condition she is in considerable pelt—both mast and yards broke—and very leetle more than her hull left. It is pretty well known how she got in this snarl—and the next thing is to git her off, and the question is how to get her out on't. You have the power to do this, and as every body knows and feels that there is not and never can be a time when it will be again, any vessel afloat that can compare with the "Two Follies," it is your duty to see that some one may be taken to get her off shore. Every body who has been off to see the hull of this vessel, says there ain't nothing that looks more strong and may high her for beauty and strength—for though she has now ben thumpin on the beach for a consid'rable time, yet she is as tight as a drum and stand her keel to her dock timbers as ever she was—this is owin mainly to the manner she was first built—for you know I suppose, if you don't know, I now tell you, that she was built just at the close of the last war, and all the timbers in her were carefully taken from every State in the Union—and she was built by the Nation—every State sendin a carpenter or more and every part on her was put together—and every carpenter too brought timber from his own State to put into her—live oak—locust—yellow pine—cedar—and all kinds used in ship building—and a completer job never was lanched into the water.

So long as she kept to the nation all went on well enuf—she could do a coastin trade and a foreign trade; she has been round Capes and Point of all names and nations—"Cape Horn," "Cape of Good hope," "Cape Hatteras," Pint" Look out," "Pint Judith," and "Pint at the Pint" was every body at home and abroad that know'd any thing about sich kind of craft, has been heard to say she was the prettiest craft in the world. Well, it turned out in an evil day, that "The Government" haul'd down the national flag, and set up one's according to its own fancy, and made such a vessel, and that States only should own and sail 'em. I ain't the master said Mate, all I know's turned to and built in a hurry a hull batch of vessels pretty much after the fashion of Mr. Jeffers war gunboats—and call'd 'em after the Spanish pirl critter, and well known what the "Two Follies" was built arter—and that he is just the man wo wish, and whose services we need in the next Legislature.

2d. That we can elect T. STEVENS to the Assembly.

3d. That we will DO IT.

4th. That we approve of the course pursued by our members in the Reform Convention, and that we do not, "like destruction principles which marked the effects of the radicals in that body, to undermine the foundation of our Government, and destroy the Judiciary."

5th. That, whilst the East and West, the wings of our army, are defeating and scattering the Van-its forces, any thing but Settle perseverance on the part of the Key State would, and will be considered by us, as a disgrace to the Commonwealth, and a signal of defeat, and a great sin against the people.

6th. That we cannot, and will not, be deceived by the Van Buren Cry, "Hard Money—Hard Times—Hard Times—Hard Money—Hard Money—Hard Times—Hard Times—Hard Money—Hard Money—Hard Times—Hard Times—Hard Money—