

STAR & REPUBLICAN BANNER.

"I WISH NO OTHER HERALD, NO OTHER SPEAKER OF MY LIVING ACTIONS, TO KEEP MY HONOR FROM CORRUPTION.—SHAKS"

BY ROBERT WHITE MIDDLETON.]

GETTYSBURG, PA. TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1838.

[VOL. 9—NO. 21.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Kettlevell, Wilson & Hillard
GROCERS & COMMISSION
MERCHANTS,
Corner of Commerce and Pratt Streets,
BALTIMORE,
OFFER to the Country Trade for Cash
or prompt payment, the following
GOODS:
TO WIT:
50 lbs. S. H. Molasses
20 hds. West India & N. Orleans ditto
200 bags Rio Coffee, (part strong scented)
100 " Laguira do.
100 " Havana do.
50 hds. N. Orleans & Porto Rico Sugar
10 pipes and half pipes Champagne and
Rochelle Brandy
5 " Gin
50 tierces Honey
200 boxes Raisins
100 quarto do.
150 eighth do. } Fresh importation.
50 kegs do. }

TOGETHER WITH
Cinnamon, Cloves, Pepper, Teas in chests,
half chests and boxes, &c. &c.
Baltimore, Nov. 17, 1837. (f-33)

FRESH GOODS.

Cheaper than ever!
THE subscriber has just returned from
the city, and is now opening at his store
on the north-east corner of the Diamond,
A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
GOODS,
of the best quality—embrace
every variety of
DRY GOODS,
GROCERIES,
&c. &c. &c.
which have been purchased on the best terms
—and which he can sell cheaper than they
have ever been offered. He invites the public
to give him a call, and judge for themselves.
SAMUEL WITHEROW,
Gettysburg, May 15, 1838. (f-7

COACH LACE,

FRINGE AND TASSELS.

THE Subscriber has now on hand a large
stock of very superior
COACH LACE,
FRINGE AND TASSELS,
OF HIS OWN MANUFACTURE,
which he will dispose of on the most reasonable
terms.
Orders from a distance will be promptly
attended to. Any Pattern made to order.
Address
JOHN ODELL,
Gettysburg, Pa.
N. B. All kinds of MILITARY work
done to order.
November 17, 1837. (f-33)

CO-PARTNERSHIP.

DAVID BEAGY
AND
DANIEL TRIMMER,
HAVE this day entered into Partnership
in the business of
CABINET-MAKING,
IN ALL ITS VARIOUS BRANCHES:
which they will carry on at the Old Stand
of David Beagy, in Chambersburg Street,
where they will keep constantly on hand
for sale, at the lowest prices,
Bureaus, Tables, Bedsteads,
and all other articles in the line of their
business.
They will also make **COFFINS**
on the shortest notice—and have a **HEARSE**
with which they will attend Funerals when
required.
They hope for a share of public patronage,
and will endeavor to deserve it.
DAVID BEAGY,
DANIEL TRIMMER.
March 13, 1838. (f-50

Register's Notices.

Notice is hereby given,
TO ALL Legatees and other persons con-
cerned, that the **ADMINISTRA-
TION ACCOUNTS** of the deceased per-
sons hereinafter mentioned, will be presented to
the Orphans' Court of Adams County, for
confirmation and allowance, on **Monday**
the 27th day of August next, viz:
The Account of Daniel Kohler, Adminis-
trator of the Estate of Jacob Kohler, dec'd.
The Account of David Chapsadle, Ad-
ministrator of the Estate of John McIlvain,
deceased.
JAS. A. THOMPSON, Register.
Register's Office, Gettys-
burg, July 31, 1838. (f-18

Franklin Independent Guards!
YOU will parade in Arendtstown, on **Sat-
urday the 25th of August inst.** at 10
o'clock A. M. precisely, for drill.
By order of the Captain,
ADAM WALTER, O. S.
August 13, 1838. (f-20

Petersburg Invincibles!
YOU will parade at the usual place on
Saturday the 25th inst. at 10 o'clock
A. M. with arms and accoutrements in good
order.
By order,
A. A. McCOSH, O. S.
Petersburg, (Y. S.) Aug. 14, 1838.

THE GARLAND.

—"With sweetest flowers deck'd,
From various gardens cut with care."

FROM THE FORTHEAST LITERARY MESSENGER.

THE WARRIOR'S WREATH.

The warrior's wreath—its dark green leaves
Are twined around a lifeless brow—
The laurel crown which glory wears,
Adorns her warrior's wavy hair:
His dark eye casts a brighter beam,
Earth trembles at his haughty tread,
His mien and gestures proudly seem
To tell how oft he's fought and bled.
But lo! that laurel bears a stain—
A blood red stain defiles its leaf,
A stain which tells of death and pain,
Of ruin, war and human grief,
Of cities razed, of shattered towers,
Of desolation, rage and woe—
Of prostrate throne; of kings in chains—
And yet, behold! the warrior smiles!

THE BEPUBIICAN.

CHILDREN AND APOLOGUES.—The New York Sun
has an excellent chapter on sundry matters and
things pertaining to domestic life, from which we
extract the following:

"By the way—of children. These little
unsophisticated rogues are sad marplots—
Let but the slightest variation be made in
compliment to a visitor, and the little rascals
are sure to expose it. 'Oh, ma' what makes
you put on the nice plate—or, what is it
in that pretty bottle—or, give me a glass of
wine; you said I should have some when Mr.
A. was here.' They cannot play the hypocrite.
They have not learned the tricks of
the world, and will, in spite of all caution, let
the cat out of the bag. Oh, in our heart of
hearts, as Bulwer says, how often have we
been delighted to see them thus shame their
parents."
"A very common way of betraying shame
at economy is the thrusting of thousands of apolo-
gies down the throat of a guest with the hand
of honor. This thing is poor, and that is bad
—this underdone, and that overdone—this
too stale. The poor guest is on thorns dur-
ing the whole sitting, and compelled to ex-
haust his vocabulary of commendations, in
order to show his hostess that he is perfectly
satisfied. As you value your good digestion,
never dine twice where they think every dish
with apologies, and endeavor to persuade you
that the food provided for the family is not
fit for pigs to eat."

GEOLOGY.

There is no department of science in which
the human mind delights to exercise itself
more than that of Geology. By examining
the several layers of which the globe as
it exists at present, is made up, we are en-
abled to trace the history of its formation, and
note the changes which, from time to time,
have been wrought either by the gradual
process of decomposition or by sudden and
violent mutation. In pursuing such inquiries,
the student derives from no source more im-
portant aid than from the consideration of
the nature of the vegetables that have cover-
ed the surface of the earth at different epochs
of its formation. In *Stilman's Journal* we
find an extremely interesting article, trans-
lated by R. W. Haskins, Esq., of Buffalo,
N. Y., from the French of M. Adolphe Brag-
niart, by whom it was read before the Aca-
demy of Sciences of Paris on the 11th Sep-
tember, 1837.

In the pursuit of such inquiries there is
nothing vague or unsatisfactory, for by ex-
amining the superficial strata of the earth,
the order in which they succeed each other
and the animal and vegetable remains which
they contain, we learn the history of our globe during
the numerous ages that have preceded its present
condition. The investigation makes known to us
the beings which have successively inhabited
our sphere, and the revolutions by which they
have been destroyed, and by making us acquainted
with the phenomena attendant on these changes,
enables us to appreciate events, and to reconstruct
as it were, beings that have been coeval with
the most ancient historical traditions. To study the
alterations produced by the acquiring mind
in the matter of the most absorbing interests,
and in the pursuit of all the light is required that can
be furnished by Geology, Zoology and Botany. It was
by a process suggested by such inquiries that the
celebrated Cuvier was enabled to "reconstruct a new
world out of the fragments of the old."

According to the views of the author of the
memoir, the more serviceably that Zoology,
so far as the most ancient formations are con-
cerned, inasmuch as at the epoch when life first
began to be manifested on our globe, the animals
were all confined to the interior of the water's
and even these presented diminutive specimens of
their kind, whilst such portions of the earth as
were exposed to the sun, were merely covered by
the strong growth of vegetation. These vegeta-
ble growths are of peculiar interest, as of them
are formed the layers of coal, which, having under-
gone a mighty change during the lapse of cen-
turies, furnish fuel to the generations of the present
day. The leaves, stems, and fruits found imbed-
ded in these masses of coal, not only indicate their
vegetable origin, but show the development of trees
that existed at the time of their formation. So
far as can be gathered from observation, the Ferns
appear to be the most ancient indicated by the
leaves, whilst the trunks discovered go to show the
existence of trees totally different from any in
existence at the present day, and the analogies be-
longing to what has been found in plants now ex-
isting of a very dissimilar growth. In the words
of our author, "how different this powerful vege-
tation from that which now clothes in ever vary-
ing tints the surface of the earth. Magnitude,
strength, and activity of growth constituted its
essential characteristics; the smallest plants of
our epoch were then represented by gigantic
forms; and yet, what simplicity of organization
and what uniformity in the midst of a vegetation
so enormous." It is a curious fact that of two hun-
dred families or groups of vegetables called *Dicelyle-
toides*, known to our modern Flora, not one is
to be found in that early age, whilst few, very few
are recognized among the thirty classes called
Monocotyledons, thus showing the vegetable orga-
nization is almost entirely changed.

A SIX.—There are no less than SIX
newspapers which supported Woz, now battling
on the side of the "OLD FARMER."

The Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society
held a meeting on the 1st inst. at Boston, in
commemoration of the final emancipation of the Slaves
in the British West India Islands. The following
letter from the Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS was
read to the meeting.

QUINCY, 28th July, 1838.
Edmund Quincy, Esq., Boston.
Dear Sir:—I have received your kind in-
vitation in behalf of the Committee of Ar-
rangements of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery
Society, to attend their celebration of
the anniversary of the day upon which sla-
very was abolished in the colonial posses-
sions of Great Britain.

It would give me pleasure to comply with
the invitation; but my health is not very firm,
my voice has been affected by the intense
heat of the season, and a multiplicity of ap-
plications from societies, political and liter-
ary, to attend and address their meetings,
have imposed upon me the necessity of
pleading the privilege of my years and de-
clining them all.

I rejoice that the defence of the cause of
human freedom is falling into younger and
more vigorous hands. That in three-score
years from the day of the Declaration of In-
dependence, its self evident truths should be
yet struggling for existence against the de-
generacy of an age pampered with prosper-
ity and languishing into servitude, is a melan-
choly truth from which I should in vain
attempt to shut my eyes. But the summons
has gone forth. The youthful champions
of the rights of human nature have buckled
and are buckling on their armor, and the
scouring overseer, and the lynching law-
yer, and the servile scribe, and the faithless
scribe, and the priestly parasite, will vanish
before them like smoke touched with the spear
of Ithuriel. I live in the faith and hope of
the progressive advancement of Christian
Liberty, and expect to abide by the same in
death. You have a glorious and arduous
career before you, and it is among the con-
solation of my days, that I am able to cheer
you in the pursuit and exhort you to be steady
and unmovable in it. So shall you not
fail, whatever may betide, to reap a rich re-
ward, in the blessing of him that is ready to
perish, upon your soul.

I am, dear Sir, faithfully,
Your friend and servant,
J. Q. ADAMS.

The following report on the crops of Wheat,
Rye and Corn in Pennsylvania, is published in
the Philadelphia Commercial List of last Saturday
week:

As far as we have been able to obtain cor-
rect information, the following report of the
crops, might be considered as embracing all
the counties in Pennsylvania East of the Al-
legheny Mountains, and all New Jersey. As
it is the result of personal observation in a
great measure, it may be relied on.

WHEAT.—The crop is decidedly better
than for the two past years, but still short
of an average one. Heads, in general short,
compared with those of very productive
years, and in a large portion of the district,
rather light on the ground. The quality is
good when not injured by mildew, and this
injury is partial—not extending to more than
one-fifth of the crop—well secured. The
product, per acre, will average about three-
fourths of a good yield; but as there has evi-
dently been a diminution in the breadth of
ground for winter wheat, the aggregate re-
sult of the crop will not exceed two-thirds of
a fair average crop of former years, nor one
half of the abundant crop of 1830. Spring
wheat is almost universally a failure, and
will not pay for the seed.

RYE.—With a superabundance of straw,
and great prospects of a fine crop, the farm-
ers are greatly disappointed in Rye, as the
heads are found to be very unproductive, and
the grain generally of poor quality. As there
was an increased breadth of ground for Rye
in many parts, the crop may turn out one-
half of an average, of poor quality.

OATS.—This is very generally a light
crop, and much of it has been cut prematurely,
to save it from destruction by grasshoppers.
The yield may be about two thirds of an
average.

CORN.—The appearance of the crop of
Indian corn, was unprecedentedly fine, the
middle of July, in all the near counties, but
the continued heat and drought since has al-
ready destroyed the expectation of a crop on
all light soils—and in the best soils the farm-
ers' hopes are nearly blasted. An early
and general rain may yet save much Corn,
but would scarcely make over two thirds of
a common crop.

BUCKWHEAT.—Very little above ground;
and much that had been some time sown,
not vegetated. Altogether it is an uncertain
crop, and generally given up by farmers.

POTATOES.—The crop of early Potatoes
is very short, and that of late is likely to be
an entire failure, except in some few moist
situations. The loss of this crop will prove
very serious to the country.

HAY.—The first crop is good and well
secured; but no second crop can be made—the
pasture fields generally being without verdure.

SEEDS.—There is no expectation of a crop
of Clover seed, and that of Flaxseed will be
a very poor one.

OLD MAIDS.—Say what you will of old
maids, their love is generally more strong
and sincere than that of the young milk-and-
water creatures, whose hearts vibrate be-
tween the joys of wedlock and the disappoin-
tment of a ball-room. Until the heart of
women is capable of setting firmly and ex-
clusively on one subject, her love is like a
May shower, which makes rainbows, but
fills no cisterns.

The London Court Journal says that Mr.
Sally's portrait of the Queen has been exhib-
ited to a numerous and distinguished body
of visitors. The Journal is in the main good

authority in the Fine Arts, and therefore the
following splendid compliment to Mr. Sully's
abilities, comes with positive force: "As a
likeness it is esteemed the most admirable
as yet painted; as a work art, it reminds us
in its execution more of Sir Thomas Law-
rence than any of our modern painters."

A letter from a gentleman connected with
the firm of Messrs. Hiers, Hewitt and Co.,
of this city, dated Huntingdon, August 1,
says—"We have shipped off all the goods
from this place, including a boat load that
arrived this morning, and which left Colum-
bia on the 28th ult. You now have a clear
course, and we have a sufficient number of
wagons secured to forward twenty five tons
of merchandise daily, without any delay
here."

GRASSHOPPERS.—The attention of the
public was excited on Thursday last, at about
the hour of noon, by the disappearance of the grass-
hoppers (supposed to be) which have been so
abundant during the present season. Immen-
sely many of them, apparently from the size of a bee
down, were to be seen floating in the beams of
the sun, their wings glittering like spangles, and
extending as far as the eye could reach in height
and extent wherever the sunbeams would reach
them visible and around which they appeared to
play. The birds seemed to hover about them,
and here and there would catch a straggler, and
some of them would seem to come down as low
as the house tops. This may be quite a familiar
occurrence to naturalists, but we have never be-
fore known it to attract so much observation.
So states the *Fredrick Herald* of the 11th inst.

CORN CROP.—The corn crop in this coun-
ty, it is thought, will be an almost total failure
from the long drought, which has prevailed.
Crops have been burnt up by the heat, and a
great scarcity of all kinds of vegetables and of
pasture provails.

We are happy, however, to learn from a farm-
er of experience and intelligence from Charles
county, that there is a prospect of a large corn
crop as has ever been made, in the lower counties
of this State, and that rains have been there quite
abundant.—It.

LIGHTNING.—Considerable damage was
done in this neighborhood by the lightning which
scattered upon us on Thursday evening last.
St. John's Literary Institution in Fredrick
was struck, but we understand the damage was
not material.

The barn of Mr. Jacob Doub (?) we hear was
struck, loss estimated at \$3000. We also learn
that the barn, &c. of Mr. Plummer Adams was
consumed, but we hope the report may prove un-
founded.—It.

The Van Buren young men of Oswego
county have had a solemn meeting and resolved
that Mr. Nicholas Bidloo is "no gentleman,"
He will, therefore please to consider himself in
that category; these Oswego youths being, of
course, first rate judges of the "article." They
breed monstrous great cheeses in that county,
(Loose Fees) growing upon that ground. It
doesn't take much manure to cultivate a rank
growth of Hebanus.

Such is the unpopularity of Mr. T. H.
Benton in St. Louis, which he claims as his resi-
dence, that the *Loce Foco* organ in that city
charges one of the Whig candidates for the Legis-
lature with being friendly to him, and hopes, by
that charge, to defeat his election.

EXCEEDINGLY NEAT.—There was a
specimen of the ready politeness of Frenchmen,
on board the *Hercules* during the recent feet,
while that ship lay at Newport, which is worth
recollecting.

One of the American guests gave as a toast,
"The three days of July," referring, of course, to
the revolution which placed Louis Philippe on
the throne. An officer of the ship immediately
gave—"And the Fourth." A happier instance
of impromptu politeness never occurred.

THE FAR WEST.—The South Bend
(Iowa) Free Press advises emigrants to the West
to stop when they reach St. Joseph's county,
which it avers to be exactly in the centre of the
world—dehaling all other countries to beat it
in wheat, corn, oats, rye, corn, potatoes, pumpkins,
watermelons, and all the rest of ceteras which flourish
in a Northern climate.

More Serious Loose-Forty three Germans to the Rescue!

The following is a list of the FORTY-
THREE NATURALIZED GERMAN CITIZENS
of Beaver County, who have come out with
an address, avowing their determination to
go for the "Washington County Farmer."
So much for the *Loce Foco* abuse of the
Governor at Harrisburg. The Germans of
Pennsylvania will not soon forget the
"DUTCH HO" epithets. A fouler insult
upon a high minded, intelligent and upright
people, was never perpetrated. The Ger-
mans are conceded to be among the most
valuable, as they are certainly among the
most industrious of the population of this
country. They have greatly contributed
to the wealth, character and influence of
Pennsylvania; and blistered be the tongue
that at this late day, and for base political
objects, would heap insult and wrong upon
the heads of this noble class of our yeomanry.

John Endress	George Louis
Philip Bentel	Wilhelm Butler
Friedrich Schumacher	Franz R. Le Jovillon
George Wagner	Johan Bauer
Fred'k Carl Speyerer	Geo. Schanfer
Wilhelm Schmidt	Bernhard Ziegler
Jacob Stahl	George Ziegler
Ludwig Epple	Israel Bentel
Tobias Schmidt	Jacob Strohecker
Jacob Wellaf	Rainhold Frank
Adam Keller	Christian Antrecht
David Wagner	Konrad Gunn
Simon Wagner	Rudolph Wolff
Jacob Shaffer	Matthias Schule
Raimund Gunn	Andrew Goz
Jacob Durr	Luyas Foster
George Reif	George Vogt
Jacob Buchinger	Jacob Sander
Fredrick Straiger	Christian Schmidt
Zeno Y. Schnobl	Jacob König.
Beaver Co. July, 1838.	

STATE DEBT.—A false statement has been
going the rounds of the *loce foco* papers, and
has at last found its way into those of this
county, in which an attempt is made to prove

that the state debt has been increased dur-
ing Governor Ritner's administration, and
that the Treasury is now bankrupt. This
is a most barefaced gull trap—a bait to catch
judgments. A correspondent of the Penn-
sylvania Intelligencer promises to pay any
one who can prove before Daniel Sturgeon,
the *loce foco* State Treasurer, that Govern-
or Ritner has increased the state debt, the
sum of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. And yet
the author of this *loce foco* statement has
not applied for the reward! *Pa. Republican.*

Let Well Alone.

No. VI.
The next alterations that I find in our old
Constitution are in the Vth article, and re-
late to the Judiciary. This seems to my
mind the most important article of all! I have
often thought that whatever may happen to
the government, our liberty will be safe as
long as the Judges remain free and independ-
ent. The Governor may be bad and the
Legislature corrupt, but while the Judges
are out of their power a man's life and prop-
erty are in no danger. And why? Because
the only way in which laws can be executed
is through the means of the Judges and the
other officers of justice; and suppose an ar-
bitrary and unconstitutional law to be made
so as, for example, to condemn a man to death
without a trial, or to take one man's prop-
erty away from him and give it to another,
the Judges, according to our present constitu-
tion, have a right to say that such a law
is void, and therefore that they will not exe-
cute it. And as long as Judges are free
they will so act, because they have the same
interest with their fellow citizens in resisting
the encroachments of arbitrary power.—
And I have often thought, too, that if any
ambitious man should want to make himself
king or emperor of the country and get the
supreme power into his hand, he will begin
by trying to make the judges dependent.—
Such a man will get up a convention, and
try to persuade the people, that the judges
ought not to be independent, and he will talk
about office for life, and aristocratic tenure,
and such things, while all the time he means
only that the judges are dangerous for those
who want to have all the power for them-
selves. I have lived pretty long in this state,
and have seen the time of McKean and Say-
ler, Findlay, Heister and the others, and I
have always felt uneasy when I saw men of
great book learning, or of high aristocratic
families coming out with radical projects
and schemes for altering the Constitution,
because I am sure that they have some other
design in view than what they profess;
and I don't know whether they will not im-
pose upon some honest democrats. Every
one has read of Julius Caesar who made
himself master of the Roman Republic short-
ly before the birth of our Saviour. He was
just such a man as that in the beginning.—
He was a great aristocrat in his heart and
really despised the people; but he got him-
self elected to the legislature of that day,
and professed to be a great radical, and was
against the Judges, and in favor of Agrarian
Laws, &c. The people unfortunately believed
him, and trusted him, and he got all the
power into his own hands; and so ended the
Roman Republic.

I have said more than once that I think
it best to stick to our old republican rules
until we see good cause to alter them. I
have been looking back to see how matters
have stood with respect to the Judges in this
state, and I find that in the first Constitution
of all, William Penn provided that the Jud-
ges and other officers should be elected every
year. This was at the very beginning,
and when probably there were only a few
fit persons in the colony. In 1793, only a
few months afterwards, an amendment to
this was made, which provided that the Jud-
ges should hold their offices during good be-
haviour. This continued to be the law
until the Constitution of 1776 was made,
which declared that the Judges should be
commissioned for seven years only. Then
there was a trial of this plan for about two
terms or 14 years; when the Convention met
which framed our present Constitution; and
on looking over the minutes it appears that
the amendment by which the Judges were
to be commissioned during good behaviour,
was agreed to unanimously, and another amend-
ment which struck out a term for years in the case
of Justices of the Peace, and declared that they
should hold their offices during good be-
haviour was adopted by a vote of 52 to 7.
Among those who voted in the affirmative,
that is, for the Judges and Justices holding
their offices for life (as it is called,) I find
the names of WILLIAM FINDLAY, JOHN
SMILE, ALBERT GALLATIN, and other well
known democrats. The truth is that in those
days it was part of the democratic creed
that Judges should be free from the influ-
ence of power and office; and in the words of
the council of censure of 1784, composed of
the most eminent republicans in the state,
"Judges should have nothing to hope or fear
from any one."

No. VII.

Now I come back to the old question.—
What harm has been done by the Judges
holding their offices during good behaviour
for the last forty eight years? Has any man's
life or liberty been taken away from him
wrongfully? Has any man's property been
taken away, except for payment of his debts?
Have they decided cases from fear, or favor,
or affection? I have looked over the speeches
that were published in the newspapers, of
the members of the Convention who were in
favor of the term for years, and can't find in
one of them any proofs of misconduct in the
Judges. It is true that there have been some
bad appointments during these 48 years; and
some of the Judges have not been very great
men; and some have remained on the bench

after they had grown old; but these radicals
forget how many good Judges we have had,
and how little wrong has actually been done
during all that time. And then what I want
to know is how things are to be made bet-
ter by having the Judges of the Supreme
Court appointed for 15 years, the Presidents
of the Common Pleas for ten years, and the
Associate Judges and Justices of the Peace
for five years. It is certain that we shall
not get wiser or better men appointed at
first; since if such persons would not accept
for a long term they will not for a short one.
Every body knows that it takes a long time,
both of study and practice, to make a good
lawyer, and unless a man is a good lawyer
he cannot be a good judge—and when a man
has made himself a good lawyer he makes
by his practice more than he can get as a
judge. What I mean to say then, is, that
you can't get a good judge, unless you make
it an object to him, by giving him a settled
birth, from which he can't be turned out,
except for misdemeanor in office. So that if
the present amendment shall be adopted, we
may be pretty sure of having worse men in-
stead of better. But that is not the worst
thing I apprehend from this change. Though
we have had some poor judges under the
Constitution, yet I think none of the mem-
bers of the Convention, who have been most
anxious for the amendments have been able
to prove that there has been any corrupt
judges; and I don't think that any one mem-
ber ventured upon to say so; though it is
evident that there were a good many who
wanted to get rid of some of the judges; for
what purpose can't at present see. Not by
corrupt judges, not only men who take money
or other presents for their decisions, but those
who are influenced by some great rich or popu-
lar man, or by favor towards such persons; and
when we find that nothing of the kind is pre-
tended, even by their worst enemies, it certainly
argues strongly in favor of the system of indepen-
dent judges, and supports my idea, that we ought
to Let Well Alone. But suppose judges to be
appointed for a term of years, will they not
be looking forward to the end of their term,
and consider how they shall manage to get re-
appointed. There is no doubt that this will be so, because
it is according to human nature. They will
then be looking for nothing to live upon, unless
they are continued in office; and they will take
good care not to run the risk of being turned out
upon the commons. Justices of the peace are to
be elected by the people for five years.— Now these
justices have large powers and authorities. They
can commit a man to jail, and they have a right
to give judgment against any man in New Jersey
under 100 dollars, in any suit, and by a serious
number of judgments, they may take the whole
of any man's property away from him, without a
jury trial. Surely this is a great power for one
man to have—yet, as far as I know, or have ever
heard of, though there are several thousand Justices
of the peace in the state, there have not been any
instances of an abuse of this power. And why?
I don't know, unless it is because they hold their
offices during good behaviour, under our present
Constitution: And they know that if they behave
well and do justice, they can't be turned out; but
if they do wrong they are liable to be im-
mediately removed. But how can they be
sure to go out, good or bad, at the end of five years?
Why I think I can see plainly, that they will take
care not to offend any rich or popular man by
giving judgment against him; but they will have
every inducement to do as he desires them to do.
Suppose, then, that I have a small property, and
don't trouble myself much with law, but I am
an electing; but do my work and mind my
own business; and some rich man or some great
party leader should take offence at me, or want
to get my little property away from me, why he
will go to a Justice of the peace in the neighbor-
hood, and lay some complaint against me, or bring
a suit against me for 100 dollars; and what chance
will I have against such a person? I know that
the Justice knows that if he decides against them he will
be likely to lose his office at the next election.—
Here, then, lies the great danger for poor men,
if this amendment should be adopted, and they should
have any falling out with a man of influ-
ence. It is of no use, saying that a poor man
may have an appeal if the Justice is wrong
against him. I know that very well; but I know
also that there are a good many firms about ap-
pealing, which make it difficult to manage with-
out a lawyer; and after an appeal goes to the
Court of Common Pleas, why there will be the
same kind of judges there, appointed for a term
of years, and looking out for a re-appointment,
and always anxious to make friends of rich men,
and men of influence. So much for the justice
of the peace. Then how will it be with the judges
of the higher courts? I have said that they will
probably be influenced in the same way as the
Justices of the peace. But there are still more
important considerations to be mentioned. Sup-
pose the Legislature should pass a law enact-
ing that certain persons, farmers, or merchants or
mechanics, should be put in jail, and kept there
without a trial; or that one man should have
another man's land or stock in trade, without pay-
ing for it, or in short do any thing arbitrary
thereof, which is expressly forbidden in the Con-
stitution. How could they do this? What is the
ground, which would justify them in doing such
wicked and unjust laws from being put in
force against any citizen of Pennsylvania? Why
you will say, the courts will not allow these things;
the judges will declare such laws to be unconsti-
tutional and void. Not so fast my friend! The
judges will do so now, because they are independ-
ent, and not afraid to do right; but let the amend-
ment be adopted, and the judges hold their offices
only for a term of years; and you will find that
they will have to carry into effect every law which
the legislature may choose to adopt, no matter how
unconstitutional; because if they do not they will
not be re-appointed; and as judges are only men,
and have wives and children to support, we can't
expect them to ruin themselves for the sake of
other people.

There is outcry however about officers for life.
I don't know what this means, exactly, since no
judge now has an office for life, because if he
does wrong or injustice he will be impeached or
removed; or if he has been in office only a day; and
this is the wise provision of our present Constitu-
tion. In no sense indeed, do the judges hold offices
for life; that is for the life of every one of us,
which is preserved by having independent judges,
—and if ever we have such judges as there are in
some countries where they are not independent,
I would not give much for the life of any man.

The more I think on the subject the more I am
satisfied that the true democratic doctrine is to
have independent judges, and that this scheme
of making them dependent on rich men and men of
influence, is the weak invention of some enemy
in disguise. I have no doubt whatever from
some things that I have seen in the Convention,
that there were a good many real aristocrats there
concealed under the names of radicals and reform-
ers. I hope and trust however that their
schemes will be defeated, and that the people will
consider their own true interests and stick to the
present Constitution, which secures them by the
aid of honest and independent judges, LIFE, LIB-
ERTY AND PROPERTY.