Political.

From the Jersey Shore Vedette.

Defence of Gov. Packer--An Up Hill Business.

The few remaining friends of Governor Packer are getting alarmed at the inroads that are being made upon his character by the publication of a certain official document emanating from him,—the pardon of Charles Miller—and are casting about for some means of defence. The first attempt at a defence that we have seen was made by the Jersey Shore *Republican* last week; and that, although probably as good as could be made with the material on hand, has in our opinion, made the matter worse. It is not necessary to give the whole of the *Republican's* article but we give the following paragraphs:—

"Mr. Ensworth by this verdict is thus cleared of any suspicion against his integrity, and as he has suffered while the case was pending, it is mere justice to an injured man that the press should do him justice. We never, after we heard of the first proceedings in the case, had a doubt that Mr. E. would be able to vindicate his character fully, and it must be a source of congratulation to every lover of justice, that an honorable citizen has been relieved from the odium attendant upon a prosecution of the kind.

"The opposition press, however, are disposed to deal unfairly with Gov. Packer in the premises. If Gov. P. has been deceived and has liberated a convict, it is no reason that it should be charged that inducements were held out to criminals to implicate honest men. It is well known that inducements have always been held out to parties under arrest in order to get one man to make disclosures against the rest; and in this matter Governor Packer simply performed his duty. We have no doubt whatever that the charges against Mr. Ensworth were unfounded, but we think our opposition neighbors can defend him fully, without attempting to stigmatize any officer of the commonwealth."

The "opposition press" are here charged with being "disposed to deal unfairly with Gov. Packer," and in another part of the article, "impeach Gov. Packer" is the language used. Now our readers know (but the readers of the *Republican do not, as far as that paper is concerned*) that the only impeachment of the Governor has been the publication of the pardon of Charles Miller, accompanied by a short comment from the Elmira *Advertiser*, the only important part of which is a contradiction of the falsehood contained in the pardon that three men had been arrested in Elmira through information obtained from Miller. If this is impeachment the Governor and his defenders can make the most of it.

The *Republican* expresses full confidence in the honesty of Mr. Ensworth, and declares that "after the first proceedings had taken place it never doubted that he would be able to vindicate his character fully," and yet the Governor says in his pardon, "there is no doubt of the guilt of these parties." Now what is the evidence upon which the Governor founds his assertion? *The mere word of a convict in the Penitentiary*, communicated to him by the District Attorney!

But there are other facts connected with this matter which it will not be amiss to refer to, and perhaps in doing so we can refresh the memory of the editor of the *Republican*. Charles Miller was pardoned out of the penitentiary and came home on Saturday. On Monday it was expected that Mr. Ensworth's trial would come on, and on Monday morning it was reported in Williamsport that Miller and Kate King had decamped, and on Tuesday the Jersey Shore *Republican* came out containing the following article:

"ABSCONDED.—It will be recollected that at the last Court, a man by the name of Miller, with two others, was convicted and sentenced to the Penitentiary, for attempting to rob a man named Lask. It was said that Miller was the husband of Kate King, who was the principal witness against Ainsworth, charged with being concerned in the counterfeit business. It was thought that Miller would testify against Ainsworth, and on the strength of his promise to do so he was pardoned by Gov. Packer. On Monday morning, however, Miller and Kate were missing, and have not since been heard from. *The general impression is that they have been bought off by Ensworth.*" [The Italics are our own.]

The appearance of this article with the significant last sentence struck us at the time as singular. In the first place it is libelous, and if a prosecution should be commenced would probably subject the publisher to considerable expense, and in the second place it presented a case of enterprise in getting news not habitual with that journal, as we need not say that it is not in the habit of publishing transactions taking place in Williamsport the day before its issue. This we all *know!* Perhaps this will be an impeachment of the *Republican*.

The action of the Governor and his friends in this matter, appears more shameful and degrading every time we look at it, and it is impossible for any one, after examining the subject in all its bearings to resist the conclusion that it was a most base and deeply laid scheme to destroy the reputation and break down the business and standing of respectable men because they were influential members of a political party opposed to the Governor. We do not know, and if we did it would not be proper here to state, to what length it was the intention to push the matter, but there can be no doubt that if a jury could have been obtained that would have been corrupt enough to convict him upon Mr. Miller's evidence, had he been base enough to swear to the charges which he *told* the District Attorney, Mr. Ensworth might now have been suffering the torments of a life in the penitentiary; and had *he* been convicted it is known that there were others who would have been assailed. We need not mention names, as it is well known who they are. Thus it is seen that several, we know not how many respectable men in Williamsport are only saved from the felon's brand through the lingering honesty of a notorious scoundrel and felon.

But the friends of the Governor may say that this is only supposition. We may admit that it is so; but it is *not* a supposition that Gov. Packer did, on the mere say so of a convict brand a neighbor, a man occupying a prominent position in Williamsport, and whose character stands as high, if not higher, for honor and integrity than his ever stood, as a felon, by declaring that "there is no doubt of the guilt of these parties." This was not whispered quietly in a corner where few could hear it, but published in a State paper before the world and entered on the archives of the State to remain uncontradicted as long as the State has an existence. If the publication of his pardon, accompanied by the verdict of the jury is an impeachment of the Governor let him be impeached. If he does not like to face his own official papers it is his misfortune as that pardon is destined to follow him as long as he lives.—It is utterly impossible for him to elude it, for there is no mountain so high nor dungeon so deep in this world where he can hide himself that the document will not find him out, and if it be true that in the hour of dissolution man's conscience presents to him all his bad deeds then shall that pardon appear to him like an accusing angel; and perhaps, it would not be improper to say that when he appears at the final judgment that pardon will confront him there.

From the Lock Haven Watchman.

U. S. AMERICA *vs.* LORAN A ENSWORTH.

Last week we gave some of the proceedings in the case of U. S. of America *vs.* Loran A. Ensworth, which was tried in the District Court held at Williamsport, Sept. 20, 1858, with remarks thereon from the Elmira *Advertiser*, and also the proclamation of pardon by Gov. Packer, freeing from the Penitentiary one notorious criminal, known by the name of Charles Miller, under circumstances to say the least of them, very discreditable (if not criminal) on the part of the Executive of a sovereign State.

The same plea offered in extenuation, by Gov. Packer for the pardon of Charles Miller, could be entered with as much justice in every case where a person has violated the laws of his country, and is justly suffering the penalty for violating those laws. Therefore, if nothing else, it is a bad precedent, and for the protection of all communities should not have been made.

It will be recollected that the U. S. District Attorney Roberts, abandoned the case as soon as his evidence was all in, before the defence had adduced any, saying to the Judge that the evidence was such that they could not ask a conviction under, and the learned Judge instructed the jury to return a verdict of acquittal of Mr. Ensworth without leaving their box, which they did.

Now we wish our readers to bear in mind, that this evidence which Attorney Roberts told the Judge was such that he could not ask a conviction under, was the evidence which Gov. Packer pardoned out of the Penitentiary, (as we believe) for the purpose, as far as in his power, to injure the reputation of one man and his friends, whose character for honesty and morality no one had heretofore dared to impugn, because they were leading men of a political party who had refused to sacrifice their principles at the command of a demagogue, who now, to the shame of the Keystone State be it said, sits in her Executive chair issuing pardons to criminals for the ostensible purpose of punishing some of his political opponents by endeavoring to cast a stigma upon their moral character. How degraded, how humiliating to contemplate!

We speak plain on this subject, because we speak feelingly; for if such things be permitted and passed by in silence, any one, no matter how pure his morals or how correct a life he may lead, may be in danger of losing his reputation among his fellow-men, and consequently the ruin of his business, by any aspiring demagogue who has access to the ears of the Governor.

Although Mr. Ensworth, by the action of his prosecutors, stands as clear of any crime which they imputed to him as the angels in heaven, yet the action of the prosecutors had its desired effect, mainly to cripple him in his business, and thereby injure his and his friends' political influence. This was all they expected to do from the time they first got a Prostitute to swear against him.

This community all know with what a flourish of trumpets the arrest of this man was announced by a certain clique in Williamsport—how they asserted it would lead to the arrest of other leading men in Williamsport, as soon as certain developments were made, which would astonish the whole community, at the same time telling some of their friends who these parties were who would be arrested, and whom Gov. Packer terms before their trial, or even arrest, as "notorious criminals," and prejudges their case by saying "that there is no doubt of the guilt of these parties," and with what astonishment the news was first received. They now know how true were those assertions.

Volumes might be written against such perversion of justice by persons who are selected to execute the law in its purity, but this will suffice for the present, and we would not have mentioned it so much at length as we have, if such acts had been properly commented on by the Press generally.

We will merely add that a more outrageous act of injustice never was perpetrated upon any set of men than this act perpetrated upon Mr. Ensworth and his friends, by the District Attorney and the clique acting with him, and since the trial we have heard the acts of these officers spoken of in connection with this case, only with derision and contempt.

We hope if there is any such thing as justice that it will be fully meeted out to those who would, if it had been in their power, injured the reputation of an innocent and as good a man as can be found in any community.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA.,

Thursday Morning, Dec. 9, 1858.

T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

☞ Congress met last Monday, and just before going to press we received an abstract of the Message, but have not room for it this week. There is nothing of very great importance in the immensely long-winded document.

☞ The Administration is again rebuked by the good people of Berks. At an election to fill the vacancy of J Glancy Jones, Gen. Keim, anti-Lecompton, beat Joel B. Wanner, Lecompton, and law-partner of Mr. Jones, by 469 majority. Gen. Keim's political antecedents were whig, which adds to the interest of the result.

☞ James Chestnut, Esq., has been elected to the United States Senate from South Carolina. Mr. Chestnut was President of the State Senate, and is anti-fire-eating in his political sympathies. The Palmetto people are thus left without a fire-eating representative in the National Senate, Senator Hammond having in a recent speech renounced disunion doctrines.

☞ Hon. John Letcher, fire-eater, has been nominated by the Democrats for Governor of Virginia. The Convention was a warm one, and some of the members "passed the lie," and have gone to North Carolina to "vindicate their wounded honor," in a duel. They are Mr. Jackson and Mr. Seddon. The result will be looked for with interest, by the Virginia "fancy" who are just now having a fine "season" of private shooting-at-each-other.

☞ We print herewith, a couple of articles relating to the recent trial of L A. Ensworth, at Williamsport, on a charge of counterfeiting. The position which Gov. Packer has taken in this matter is not very flattering to either his political or personal integrity, and is altogether a fine illustration of "Democratic usages," when a party purpose is to be served. Mr. Ensworth is well and favorably known here, having at one time resided in this village. The articles will be read with interest by his friends.

☞ We endorse the following item from the McKean *Citizen*, and cheerfully give it a place in our columns:

TRANSCRIBING CLERK.—We learn that our friend Row of the *Raftsmen's Journal* is a candidate for Transcribing Clerk of the next House. Mr. Row is one of those persons to whom James Lecompton Gillis owes his late election—to stay at home. He is a gentleman that is battleing for the Right in the dark county of Clearfield, with the entire Bigler faction to oppose him. His efforts have been such that the day is beginning to dawn in that benighted region, and a few years more will certainly find him in the ascendancy. If such a man does not deserve an office when he asks for it, who does?

THE NATIONAL ERA.—This excellent paper is about to commence its thirteenth volume, and as it is conducted upon the cash principle, its editor appeals to the public for a continuance of that support which has been extended to it heretofore. The *Era* is the only paper at Washington which reflects the anti-slavery sentiment of the country, and as it is on that account deprived of all federal patronage, it is dependent entirely upon the people, outside of the District. Those who desire a first class paper from the seat of government should order the *Era*. No journal in the Union has a more able corps of editors and correspondents. It presents weekly a well prepared variety of editorials on different subjects, a summary of general news and political intelligence, has a careful record of the proceedings of Congress, and is the repository of a large portion of the most interesting speeches delivered in that body. The terms are two dollars per annum for a single copy, and to clubs it is furnished at a much lower rate. We trust a large number of subscribers' names with the money, will be sent from this county.—Address G. BAILEY, Editor of the *National Era*, Washington, D. C.

HON. T. L. HARRIS, M. C. from Illinois, died of consumption on the 24th ult. He was recently reelected as an anti-Lecompton Dem.

Who Shall be Our Candidates for President and Vice President?

The following communication appears in the Pittsburg *Commercial Journal*, of the 30th ult., which some one has sent to us, and we transfer it entire to our columns in order that our readers may better understand what we have to say on the subject:

For the Daily Commercial Journal.

As the Presidential campaign of eighteen hundred and sixty will soon be upon us, the Republicans should be on the alert in regard to their standard bearers. Experience teaches that the principles for which they have struggled, and by whose force they have become a national party, should not be postponed for expediency or to promote the interests of designing politicians.

"Opposition to the extension of slavery," on which our party is founded, has been too often postponed and made a secondary question. In the coming campaign, side issues should not divert attention from the encroachments of the slave power, but our aim should be to give a death blow to the designs of the sectional party of slavery. To do this, not only should our principles be fearlessly expressed, but our candidates should be men who have been tried and found true to the cause of Freedom, and whose characters and positions will add to and not detract from our strength.

As Illinois and Pennsylvania are to be the battle grounds in eighteen hundred and sixty, let us choose men whose principles and localities will there insure success.

Is not WILLIAM H. SEWARD, the greatest living statesman of the New World, and who has been identified with the formation of the Republican party, the most suitable candidate for the Presidency? His name alone would gather around our standard all who have for years been struggling against the subserviency of the late national parties. Those who have fled tyranny in the Old Country cannot but support the man who has struggled for their rights in the homes of their adoption, and all true lovers of *American* Liberty, cannot fail to place their confidence in him, who has read the Constitution with a view to carry out its principles of justice at whatever personal sacrifice. To him, and him alone, must we look for that champion, who will accomplish the overthrow of the Demagogue, who has lately deceived the people of Illinois, as did BUCHANAN the citizens of this State.

JAMES POLLOCK, the first Republican Governor of Pennsylvania, on whom the Republicans, Americans and Whigs united when they achieved the glorious victory of his election, is second to no man in our country for true patriotism and for political as well as personal integrity. The example of economy set by his administration of our State Government, might well be imitated by our National Administrations.

With WILLIAM H. SEWARD, of New York, and JAMES POLLOCK, of Pennsylvania, as its candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, the Republican party of the nation may rely that Illinois and Pennsylvania will give the majorities for Freedom which will decide the campaign of eighteen hundred and sixty.

PITTSBURGH.

We heartily endorse all of the above eulogium of principles and men; but we as heartily object to the ticket proposed—or at least half of it—for many, and we think, incontrovertible reasons, some of which we give below.

We believe it would be inexpedient to nominate two men of the same political antecedents and of such approximate locality. Both of these men are old-line Whigs, and however long-headed the wire workers may deem themselves who will endeaver to procure the nomination of the ticket proposed by "Pittsburgh," the result would unmistakably prove that they were exceedingly too short-sighted for political leaders. Would the Middle and Eastern States sustain a ticket made up in two adjoining Western States? Would the Democratic element of the Republican party sustain a ticket on which they were not represented? The thought of either is preposterous in the face of good policy. Our party is now in a position which gives every reason for its success in the Presidential contest of 1860, and we honestly and sincerely believe that the successor of Mr. Buchanan will represent the Republican principles and party. But the line of policy suggested in the last paragraph of "Pittsburgh's" communication would prove a regular *coup d' etat* upon the prospects of the party.

We have no objection whatever to Wm. H. Seward as our candidate for President in 1860—indeed, we would be very much pleased to have him for our standard-bearer. He is now "square and fair" upon the platform which we desire to see the Republican party adhere to and rise or fall by in 1860—bold, fearless and honestly avowed hostility to the slave-power—a platform upon which we believe it will achieve the victory of its second great battle with slavery and official corruption. Give us either him or Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, with a suitable candidate for Vice President, and our party will be sure of success. But save us from such a ticket as that presented by "Pittsburgh." The true policy would be to nominate Wm. H. Seward for President and Cassius M. Clay for Vice President, or Salmon P. Chase for President and Francis P. Blair for Vice President. With either of these tickets we would feel certain of success.

While we cheerfully accord to ex-Gov. Pollock all the honors he has thus far achieved in his profession and past official position, as well as in the nobler position of a man, we do not feel safe in endorsing his name as a candidate for Vice President in 1860. If the nomination is to be given to Pennsylvania at all, we would much prefer the name of David Wilmot; but we think it would be inexpedient to nominate either candidate from Pennsylvania, under the circumstances.

We have not room to notice this question further in this issue, but will refer to it hereafter.

☞ South Carolina is a great Commonwealth—indeed, in the opinion of her leading statesmen (?) and therefore of herself, she is the beacon-light of American prosperity, the glowing and glory of the Union's existence, the center of the Southern world's greatness. South Carolina fumes and frets a little and the whole electrical Southern cat's-back purrs—for a while. She rejoices at some "democratic" victory in the North, and the whole Southern firmament is illuminated by the palmetto candle-flame. All this—and yet the germ of greatness is still awaiting the brilliant (!) finishing touch of our pen. We have not mentioned the great city of Charleston! South Carolina is the *general* center of the Southern world, but Charleston is the *particular*—nay, *positive*—center—that is to say, South Carolina illuminates the world south of Mason and Dixon's line, and Charleston furnishes the oil. Charleston, therefore, is *the* center, after all. The State legislature sits in Columbia, but the State laws are framed in and for Charleston. Columbia has the glory of the good and the stigma of the bad acts of the legislature, while Charleston receives the profits of both.

Charleston, too, is a great expounder of Southern common as well as uncommon law—that is, the common law of South Carolina is made to work all the profits of domestic nigger-driving into the bills receivable of Charleston, while the uncommon laws are made by Charleston decisions to aggrandize the Charleston purse with the proceeds of all southern nigger-*stealing* ventures. The British and American cruisers on the coast of Africa have no right to overtake and punish the Charleston nigger-stealing fraternity whom they may nab in the act and in full possession of the booty. The United States naval officers are posted in the matter too, and when they do chance to cause a Freedom shout on the coast of Africa or Cuba, it is sure to *Echo* Slavery in the great port—the immense slave-grotto—of Charleston. Hence, the common law of South Carolina swells into the grand proportions of National acquittals for piracy. Hence, no bills were found by a Charleston grand jury, (which set in the Federal Court at Columbia,) against the nigger-stealers captured by Lieut. Maffitt.—Charleston, therefore, we repeat, is a great city, for it can take its own part, and its grand juries are ever ready to second it; and South Carolina is a great State, because it contains, nay, we had better say, it is *in* Charleston.

But abolitionism, or aught in the Federal laws that favors the idea that slavery is wrong, must now be expunged; for here is the fiat of Charleston, and who dares refuse its demands, and call himself a citizen of South Carolina? By a telegram from Columbia under date of the 4th inst., we learn that

"Resolutions were yesterday introduced into the House instructing the Representatives of South Carolina in Congress to use all efforts to secure the repeal of all measures of the General Government restrictive of the slave-trade, the same being in derogation of the rights of the South. They were ordered for consideration to-day."

We presume the said resolutions will receive due consideration from the members, which consideration will of course be governed by the particular demand of Charleston; and furthermore, we presume the South Carolina Senators and Congressmen will be instructed to demand the repeal of all federal enactments interfering with free-trade (in niggers) in the name of the great Palmetto Union; and furthermore, we presume that the national administration, with its doughface northern lacqueys, will listen to the South Carolina commands with obedient ears; and furthermore, we presume that the great South Carolina powers will, in consequence of the auxiliary feeling of the administration, be highly elated with an "almost victory," out of which to make capital for Mr. Douglas' Presidential aspirations in the great democratic Sanhedrim which is to meet in Charleston in 1860 and designate to the people of the United States who South Carolina desires to run for the fourteenth President of this great nation. To which the people of the North, on that important occasion, will reply through the ballot-box:

"And let there be
'Twixt us and them no league, nor amity."

Repeal the Liquor Law of Last Session.

We hope the friends of Temperance throughout the State, and especially in this county, will make a strong effort to secure the repeal of the license law of last session. That act is a long stride backward. It was not called for by the people. Its whole influence is bad, and it ought not to be allowed to remain on the statute book for another month.

In addition to the repeal of this drunkard making act, the good of community demands a law to prohibit the *peddling* of intoxicating drinks. Scarce a week passes without some straggler from the State of New York goes through our streets with a load of poison, denominated whiskey, which he *peddles* from house to house as he can find a customer. Let us flood the Legislature with petitions to prohibit this demoralizing business.

Below we give the form of a petition which the friends of Temperance in this neighborhood are signing, and we ask every friend of the cause in the county, to make himself a committee for the purpose of obtaining signatures to this, or some other form of petition. Let the good work be commenced at once.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Potter County in said State, respectfully represents—That the Act of Assembly approved April 20th, A. D. 1858, regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors, was passed at the request of those engaged in the sale of said liquors, and is not such a law as the great mass of the people desire; that its tendency is to debauch public sentiment, and increase pauperism and crime—Therefore, your petitioners would respectfully ask for the REPEAL of said law.

They also ask for the passage of a law to prohibit the PEDDLING of alcoholic, malt, or brewed liquors within this State.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

☞ A colored convict was "showered" to death in the Auburn, (N. Y.) State prison on the 3d inst. Considerable excitement prevailed among the other prisoners, and an outbreak was threatened.

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