

INQUIRER & CHRONICLE.



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning Feb. 6, 1857.

"Fearless and Free."

DAVID OYER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

MR. WAGONSSELLER'S SPEECH. Mr. WAGONSSELLER, from the Committee on Lands, asked and obtained leave to make a statement, after which he made the following remarks.

My mind, however, has undergone a change since the discussion, which was sprung upon the House, on the request of Mr. Backus to be discharged or relieved from serving on the Committee on Lands.

I came here as a Democrat with a view of carrying out, in good faith, the rules and regulations of the party, so long as they did not interfere with a conscientious discharge of my duty to the interests of the whole people.

I had no idea, however that at the very outset there would be attempted an encroachment upon the rights of individual members of the party, in the selection of a candidate for the United States Senate, and therefore regarded as an idle rumor the report that the President elect was exerting all his influence in favor of the nomination and election of John W. Forney, until it was made manifest in the caucus—a period too late in the struggle to affect the result by any action I might have deemed proper to pursue, different from the course originally marked out for myself.

I did not even then realize the full force of the wrong done the Democratic party—the great wrong done prominent members of the party, who, from their acknowledged ability and worth, were entitled to fairer treatment than being overwhelmed in caucus by executive interference and dictation.

It was only after I had been shown the letter of Mr. Buchanan, dictating who should be the nominee for Senator, that I fully appreciated the outrage attempted upon the rights of the Democratic members of the Legislature. This was subsequent to the nomination of Mr. Forney and previous to the meeting of the joint convention of the two Houses.

To show that I assert nothing untrue with regard to the letter, I herewith ask that it may be read:

very silly thing in electing Governor Bigler to the Senate, that the representatives from Schuylkill voted for a man wholly unfit for the position.

What greater insult, I ask, could be offered those who are the friends of Wm. Bigler, one of whom I profess to be?

Mr. Buchanan's reference to Mr. Brodheads is still more plain and pointed. He states distinctly and clearly, in as many words, that his relations for several years past, with this consistent and distinguished Democrat, have been such that he has no confidence in him, and therefore he must be slaughtered to make room for John W. Forney.

These, Mr. Speaker, are the instructions to the Democratic members of the Legislature, notwithstanding the positive assurance from Mr. Buchanan himself, given, as I am told, previous to the late contest, that all old animosities and misunderstandings should cease and be forgotten—that every Democrat who labored for the cause was to stand on an equality with his brother Democrat in the distribution of patronage, &c.

How changed his views immediately after the election. Mr. Brodhead, we all know, labored zealously night and day to secure the triumph of the Democracy in the late severe campaign.

The fruits of his services are seen in the unparalleled majority of old Northampton—in the overpowering vote cast for the Democracy throughout the glorious Tenth Legion.

The fiat had, however, gone forth. He was to be sacrificed with one term, after a career in the Senate which should have brought him a different reward.

I appeal to every disinterested, independent Democrat—to every individual who values his manhood—whether so unwarrantable a reflection on Gov. Bigler, in the first place, and so unjust an attempt to prejudice the claims of Mr. Brodhead, in the next place, without taking into account others who were almost summarily dispatched for Mr. Forney's gratification, did not loudly call for rebuke?

dent, in bringing his influence to bear in behalf of a candidate for office.

He then was called upon to speak of Judge Woodward's defeat—a man of "private virtues and splendid talents"—but he very properly reminded talents.

He now raises his voice as President in favor of one who can lay claim to no qualities of the kind.

In opposing Mr. Forney, we are jealous of Federal interference, and can appeal, with great propriety, to Secretary Buchanan of 1845, to sustain us in our position against President Buchanan in 1857.

But, Mr. Speaker, it was not alone the executive power, brought to bear against democrats who merited better treatment at the hands of Mr. Buchanan, that influenced myself and colleague in casting aside obligations that would otherwise have been considered binding.

Mr. Buchanan forced the nomination of an individual for Senator, who, by one single act of his life, without noticing more of his sins, made himself unworthy of so high a position, and unworthy to associate with the distinguished men in that body.

It is perhaps needless to say I refer to Mr. Forney's base attempt to elicit acknowledgments from a weak man in a fit of drunkenness, produced at Forney's instance, with a view of perpetrating a great wrong against a defenceless woman in distress.

For the purpose of showing the enormity of his offence and the depths to which he descended, I shall refer to the celebrated letter of Mr. Forney to Mr. Roberts.

Our friend Forrest is now here, and is about to apply for a divorce from his wife. He has had, for eighteen months, the proofs of her infidelity, but has chosen to keep them quiet, and would have done so still, but for her folly in censuring him for leaving her. It is really astounding how he has kept these proofs to himself from all his friends, for all that time, but it is so nevertheless.

heading a meeting in Pottsville, called to denounce us, stated to a gentleman of my acquaintance, previous to the election of Senator, that there was sufficient justification for any one who should refuse to vote for Mr. Forney.

It is painful to be obliged in self defence to make mention of a circumstance of a private nature; but when individuals deal in unmeasured abuse of me without provocation or just cause, I shall not hesitate to "carry the war into Africa."

I take it for granted, Mr. Speaker, that I have furnished sufficiently good reasons for arraying myself against the nomination and election of John W. Forney.

After satisfying my mind that I was right in my determination to oppose him, I did not hesitate long in making my choice between the opposing candidates.

I saw, as did my colleague, that Gen. Cameron was the only man presented with whom we could succeed.

It is true, he was the candidate of members belonging to different organizations; yet, on a hasty review of his life and past services, I believed, as I do now, that I could with great propriety, under the circumstances, give him my vote.

This I did conscientiously, regardless of the slanders and revilings I knew would be heaped upon me by Forney and his pimps.

Their defamations of character could not deter me from doing what I considered to be a duty I owed myself as well as my constituents.

I can say to them now, indifferent to their scurrilous attacks, "cease vipers, you bite a file!"

In voting for Gen. Cameron I assisted, I am glad to say, in the election of a gentleman to the United States Senate, who is highly esteemed in all the relations of life.

It has been an eventful career, full of encouragement to the youth of the republic, starting penniless and unaided by wealthy friends, but he worked his way up not only to fame but fortune.

During Mr. Polk's administration he represented Pennsylvania in the United States Senate.

He maintained a position in that body which met with just commendation in and out of this State.

It was remarked by every Pennsylvania visitor, who visited him during his term of office, that they had a representative at the seat of the National Government in whom they could justly feel a pride.

The to Loving is an extract from the letter of Geo. N. Smith, Esq., to his constituents.

"I will continue to be a Democrat and vote the Democratic ticket when Mr. Bowman and some of the wildlings to whom he is lending his name, representing me and my friends, will be recognized with detestation and scorn, and others of them have gone down in infamy to oblivion."

I think the people of Cambria will show Mr. Bowman a what kind of stuff they are made of, and what manner of men they are. If I am not too much mistaken there will be demonstrative in Westmoreland, and all the counties which the friends of Mr. Foster represent especially in Cambria, which will teach Mr. Bowman that they are men of sterner stuff. The voice of the fearless and gallant men of Cambria will fall in tones of thunder on the ears of Mr. Bowman and all the corrupt and unprincipled tricksters who have misrepresented me.

They will let Mr. Bowman know they have not forgotten that a few years since, when they were struggling to place Mr. Buchanan in nomination for the Presidency he was the first editor of a Democratic paper in his region of the State to denounce the movement, and who raised the name of Geo. M. Dallas as his favorite candidate, and persevered in it until the real friends of Mr. Buchanan in Bedford county compelled his coward heart to yield and give Mr. Buchanan a reluctant support.

Having said so much concerning myself, I will say to Mr. Bowman for the balance of the gentlemen who have acted with me in the matter, that all and each of them is his peer in honesty, honor, integrity, and every attribute which constitutes a gentleman and a Democrat, and their course in the late Senatorial difficulty will be regarded as an act of moral courage, which will be applauded by every honest, patriotic heart, long after he and the last of their maligners are forgotten."

We copy the following admirable reply of the Hollidaysburg Register to the Standard of the same place. The Register takes the right position on the recent election, and one which nearly all the American papers of the State now occupy. Hit him again, Judge!

"The Standard quotes an article from our pen a year ago against Simon Cameron, and pretends that he thereby has us in an awkward dilemma—entirely overlooking the fact that our article then was about Simon as against a better man, and that we now go for Simon against Forney—the embodiment of political trickery and corruption and moral baseness. Circumstances alter cases. Just so we are for Crosswell against the Irish legion and the Standard clique, but in opposition to him as against American Republicanism. Just so we are for Plumer, Briden & Co. as against the Portage Road Plunderers and their organ the Standard as their organ, but in opposition to them as members of the mis-called 'Democratic' party. Our neighbor has only 'a mare's nest' as regards our course.—He must try again, before he crows about making a point with the 'Register.'"

AMERICANS TRIUMPHANT.—At a recent municipal election held in Raleigh N. C. the whole American ticket was elected by a large majority. Thus at almost every election held since the Presidential contest the decision has been in favor of the great American party of the Country.

AMERICAN VICTORY.—At the municipal election, held at Wheeling, Va., on Monday last, the Americans elected their whole ticket, with one exception—the City Sergeant, who is only beaten by ten votes. Not a single Democratic nominee was elected, except in case of the City Treasurer, against whom the Americans had no opposition. Two months ago the Democrats were triumphant.

BARLEY WITHOUT BEARDS.—We have been forwarded, by Mr. J. W. Briggs of West Macedon, N. Y., three heads of a new kind of barley, without beards. He procured seven grains, three years ago, from the gulches of the Himalayan mountains, which has so increased that he will send any person a head of it on the receipt of a stamped envelope, free of charge, and for 25 cents, he will send a quantity. We will take pleasure in showing this barley, to any of our friends wishing to see it.

We copy the following from the proceedings in the Senate, on the 26th ult: Mr. MYER submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That we tender to the Hon. FRANCIS JORDAN our thanks for the prompt, dignified and impartial manner in which he presided over the deliberations of the Senate during the late unavoidable and temporary absence of the Speaker from the chair."

Wonder whether the man that spends his time and talents serving as Associate Judge, to which office the Americans elected him, takes to himself the Gazette's late remarks on traitors? They must be intended for him, and his companions, the new Court Crier, Wood Chopper and Commissioner's Clerk.

We notice by Monday's Philadelphia Daily News, that a man by the name of David McKinney, has been taken up there on suspicion of being the murderer of Norcross.

AN ADMISSION. The Washington correspondent of the New Orleans Delta, who seems to be the organ of the most ultra Southern politicians, in the course of a defence of President Pierce observes: "A law or political policy opposed to the universal sentiment of a free people cannot be executed or enforced without using the means and appliances of a strong central power. We have seen this illustrated in the Fugitive Slave Law—in the matter of

Kansas—in Cuba—and now in Nicaragua! The South has lost everything, while the North passed us with a giant's stride, enlarging in all the grand proportions of material power, addition of population, and actual territorial acquisition. The President has given us all he could control—his veto power and his messages. The President has accomplished nothing practically in our favor, simply because he cannot, in a free country, establish a policy in opposition to the will of the people. The will of the people is against the South, and a longer continuance in the Union is madness."

Correspondence of Inquirer and Chronicle. HARRISBURG, Feb. 8, 1857.

MR. EDITOR.—Legislation is now progressing about as fast as usual at this stage of the session. Among other important bills introduced are an unusually large number for the incorporation of new banks. I should think there are not less than fifty applications for new charters, and for increase of capital under old ones. Some charters for new banks were got through the House last winter, when the Democratic majority was more than twenty; and now as the majority is much smaller, it is confidently expected a great number will be passed, and especially is this looked for because it is known that some of the strongest anti-bank democrats of last session came out on this time with bills for new bank charters in their pockets. The people will therefore have to look in this event to the Americans and Republicans of the Senate, and to the Governor, to prevent a most unusual and extravagant increase of banking capital.

The democrats are now willing to pass a new law and go into the election of State Treasurer sometime before the close of the session, they having discovered that the present incumbent cannot hold over in case no election be had. They prefer taking their chances of success, to leaving the office vacant altogether. Whether their course in this matter has been dictated by patriotism or a regard for the requirements of the constitution and laws, or by a mere love of the spoils, the public will determine.

The local authorities in several of the counties have been very slow in making their return of the census as required by law. The return from the last county (Lancaster), was only received yesterday. This will greatly retard the desired progress on the apportionment bill. No committee has yet been appointed by the Speaker of the House on this important subject.

The scarlet fever is prevailing here with unusual malignity. I see by the Daily Telegraph of yesterday evening that there were one dozen children lying dead in town of this disease alone; and a great many others are seriously ill. It has been prevailing here more or less all winter, and appears now to be worse than at any time heretofore.

Some sense has been created here in political circles, by the re-appointment of Dr. Dewitt as State Librarian. It is conceded that the doctor is a most excellent officer, but he is a democrat, and a number of Americans and Republicans are of the opinion that the interests of the State would be equally safe in the hands of some good man belonging to their party. The Governor it is said, justifies his course on the ground that the office is not, and ought not to be a political one. That heretofore, when made the subject of change at every turn of the political wheel the office was scandalously mismanaged, and the best interests of the State shamelessly disregarded. That Dr. Dewitt during the last three years has brought order out of confusion, and put the Library in a much better condition than it has ever heretofore been. That even though at the present time an American Republican could have kept things up to their present standard, yet a precedent of this kind would be set, upon as sufficient pretext for again making the office of State Librarian a mere political office, and inevitably throw things back to the old channel. In the Senate there appears to be some difference of opinion, but the indications are that the views of the Governor will be sustained and the nomination confirmed.

Yours, &c., SPECTATOR.

Mr. Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina died at Washington at 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening last. His disease was an inflammation of the throat, resulting in croup; and he was attacked with it only on Saturday last. He leaves behind him, with the world in general, a most unenviable reputation, on which we need not here enlarge.

It is perhaps proper now to say with regard to the act which will be connected with the memory of this person as long as it shall live, that we do not suppose it to have been undertaken by him spontaneously, and of his own mere motion. We have the impression that it was determined upon at a meeting of the South Carolina delegation in Congress, and that Brooks was but the tool to execute the will of his colleagues. To that infamous office he lent himself voluntarily, it is true, but not till it had been decided that some one of the Congressional Representatives of that State must perform it. Brooks came forward then, as the member from the District in which Mr. Butler resided, to discharge the function of a ruffian, and in case of need, of an assassin. He has his reward in the judgment which men of honor and unprejudiced intelligence pass upon his act, but it can never be forgotten by the impartial historian that he undertook it in compliance with the nearly unanimous decision of the whole South Carolina delegation in Congress, and that after it was done he was saluted by the enthusiastic applause of the people of that State as their noblest champion, whom they could not enough admire and honor. As for Brooks himself, then, now that he has gone to the grave, we imagine that the world's condemnation will be somewhat lifted from him, but it will only be to rest with a heavy and ineffaceable blot upon the escutcheon of his State.—New York Tribune.

CONGRATULATING BUCHANAN. The following dispatch was sent from Harrisburg to the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, AN, Hon. JAS. BUCHANAN, Lancaster Pa. CAMERON IS ELECTED! RICHARD BRODHEAD.

The point of the above may be better appreciated when it is known that BRODHEAD has been on unfriendly terms with BUCHANAN, for years, and that he was in Harrisburg working indefatigably against FORNEY. As a specimen of bitter and refined malice, the fact of his thus exultingly telegraphing to BUCHANAN the defeat of his pet and consequently of himself, cannot be excelled.

It has been suggested that henceforth the Democratic party of Pennsylvania drop the name Democrat, and assume the name of Forney-stors.