



THE CENTINEL.

VINCENNES: FEBRUARY 19, 1820.

The Board of Trustees for the Borough of Vincennes, was organised on Wednesday last.

ROBERT BUNTING, *Sen. CHAIRMAN,*
HENRY RUBLE, *TREASURER.*
V. J. BRADLEY, *CLERK,*
JAMES NABB, *Constable.*

We have the fullest confidence in the majority of the members of this Board, that nothing will be done to the injury of the interests committed to their care.

The *Western Sun*, that pitiful intolerant, who tried to blast the *Centinel* in its bud, and whose hatred and rancor has been as remorseless and inveterate, as it has been uniformly weak and unavailing, again renew the charge of *venality*. We again deny this charge, and retort it on the trembling heads of its authors. If ever there were a paper, unbiased, and unswayed, except by its editor's just ideas of private honor and duty to the public, that paper is the *CENTINEL*. We have our own way of doing our own business; and our press shall never groan under the factious chafflings of any disappointed & mischievous making, malicious individual. Let the *Sun* fellows say so much, and with so much truth, if they can.

It is an odious charge; but, thank God, it comes from an odious source; and nine tenths of the citizens of this town, we have no doubt, believe it to be a *falsehood*. The people are the best judges; and we cheerfully trust ourselves to their opinion; and not to the weathercock scribblers of a most abandoned press, who live only by *sufferance*; partly on the pity, and partly on the endurance of their patrons.

The senior conductor of that paper now feels how disagreeable it is to have that measure meted to him, which he has measured out unto others. He is like a sea-sick passenger in a storm, to whom the motion of the sea is much more *novel* than *gratifying*; or, like

*"A drunken sailor, on a mast;
Ready, at every nod, to tumble down
Into the fatal bowels of the deep."*

He now knows how ruinous it is to be subservient to the leaders of a bad cause;—how dangerous it is to risk an honest fame in the hands of designing men, who only support him so long as he is serviceable to their views;—how dishonorable it is to relinquish principle to support the pretensions of an expiring party;—and he now finds that a broken staff cannot bear him up as a tool, when public opinion has put them all down, *tools* and *workmen*, together.

The last mail brought us no news from Congress, except that the debate on the *Missouri Question* still continued, and that it was probable that Missouri would gain her wishes, as expressed through her Representatives.

Spain.—The relations of the U. States with Spain have assumed no decisive character; and we do not believe they will, during the present session of Congress. The Americans are remarkable for their meekness, and truly Christian spirit, as a nation. When smote on one cheek, they patiently turn the other; and, from appearances, they will receive much more kicking and cuffing, before they will be roused to a defence of their rights and dignity.

THEATRICAL SOCIETY.

The statement of E. Stout, one of the managers of the late Theatrical Society, has not yet appeared as promised in the *Sun* two weeks since.

Feb. 18, 1820.

Gen. Harrison.—This gentleman has lately undergone considerable censure in the Ohio prints, and one or two have undertaken to defend him. In a long article, copied by request, into the *Sun* of last week, it is said that *Harrison* has been uniformly opposed to the *U. S. Bank*.—Now, we would ask the authors of that declaration, or their copyists, how long it is since this man was a Director of the Branch of the *U. S. Bank* at Cincinnati?—And, again, how long is truth to be sacrificed, to make great men appear consistent?—We are opposed to *aristocracy* in every shape in which it can shew itself;—in a national government, or in family influence; and our pen or press shall never be used to bolster up the failing fame of any person, against our own knowledge and conviction; & if other printers were equally scrupulous, few, indeed, would be the instances of one man mounting to public honor by arrogating to himself the merits of another's reputation; or by claiming applause for principles which he never acted on, and actions which he never performed.

A late *Zanesville Express*, an excellent newspaper, edited by Dr. HORACE REED, in-

forms the public that 300 weight of copper, patent for converting men to patriotism, and 400 of SILVER, have been dug up in one day, in the neighborhood of the *Wabash* and *Vermilion* rivers!

Now, this seems, to us, very much like a *traveller's story*: There is no doubt of there being a vast quantity of excellent copper embedded some where in the vicinity of the *Vermilion*. Very pure specimens of it have been brought to Vincennes, at different times; and it is said by traders that the Indians have known the spot for a long period. It is also said that the Indians have lately discovered the place to some enterprising white men.

But the people on the *Wabash*, particularly in Vincennes, who have every facility for obtaining accurate knowledge of this kind, have heard of no works being commenced there. In fact, by the laws of the United States, regulating Land Sales, all tracts, where metals, &c. are discovered, are, under heavy penalties, reserved to the General government; and few, indeed, would attempt violation, where detection would be so certain and sure.

As to the *Silver*, the Doctor first informed us of it. The people on the *Wabash* were entirely ignorant of that circumstance. We hope he is more correct when he tells us of the discovery near Zanesville, of Mr. *Chandler's* stratum of silver, nearly seven feet in thickness!—In these paper times, the very idea of such a precious mass is consoling to the distant reader; and we know the Doctor's benevolent heart participates in the joy of his neighbors.

But, in fact, neither *Gold* or *Silver* can be the wealth of this country. It is our brave and hardy yeomanry, the cultivators of the earth, who are the true riches of the soil.—Their flocks and herds; spacious fields, burdened with grain; their swelling rivers, inviting them to honest enterprise—these are the real splendors of the people of the West;—and may they ever content themselves with health and plenty by cultivating the bosom of the earth, rather than debase themselves by searching her bowels for demoralizing treasure.

The lands on the *Wabash* are peculiarly tempting to the Agriculturist. The noble forests, bearing the most valuable timber;—the extensive prairies, covered with the widest luxuriance of nature, and ready for the plough, without any previous preparation;—the numerous streams, abounding with facilities for manufactories and navigation;—together with the reflection, that here, man is free, as the pure air which encircles him;—are inducements to the particular emigration of industrious farmers. Often, when contemplating the happy situation of this part of Indiana, have we involuntarily recalled to mind these beautiful lines of Dr. *BEATTIE*:

*"The gold and gems on Cillian mountains glow;
The bleak and barren Scotia's hills arise—
There—plague and poison, rage and rapine grow;
Here—peaceful are the vales, & pure the skies,
And freedom fires the soul, and glistens in the eyes."*

It is true, our hills are but the pleasing undulations of surface; and each gentle ascent is overspread with a soil of inexhaustible fertility; but our villages are peaceful, and our skies are pure, and the shining plough-share is the most valuable gem which can glitter beneath the sun, on a land tenanted by Americans and freemen.

[COMMUNICATION.]

To the Editor of the Centinel.

Sir,—Not wishing to throw myself between two fires for the command of the division, and desirous in all cases, that the majority of officers may elect, I have to request of you, to strike my name from your list of candidates for Major General, at the approaching election. At the urgent request of many officers, I am induced to offer myself for the command of the First Brigade, and will take pride and pleasure to serve as *Brigadier General*, if elected.

THOMAS SCOTT.

February 14, 1820.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRIUMPH.

We have been favored (says the *Aurora*), with the perusal of a file of the *Courier of the Oronoco*, which contains numerous articles of the greatest interest to the cause of liberty and humanity. New Grenada, the centre and citadel of the southern section of the new world, is already free, and the debouches of the Oronoco to Popayán, on the Pacific, really under the standard of freedom, and before this date Quito and Lima must recognise the republican regime.

From the Courier of Oronoco,

30th Oct. 1819.

Advices from Santa Fe, New Grenada, have been just received, down to the 20th of September, that the head quarters of the president had been broken up, and the army had taken the direction of the valley; the last position of the royalists on the north, and Quito on the south, in the whole range of Venezuela and New Grenada; all the other provinces of New Grenada are already free, or in complete insurrection against the royal authority.

Santa Martha, which was until this most violently devoted to Ferdinand VII. is now the most enthusiastic in support of independence. This change of sentiment is to be accounted for in the *humanity* and *generosity* of Gen. Morillo, who appears to have a royal

spirit which has already shewn itself in Santa Martha, that many European

Spaniards have removed to Cartagena; a position in which they cannot very long remain, since, all the province in which it belongs, is in revolt, and Cartagena is destined to every means of subsistence.

The columns of the army of the south moved at the same time as those of the north. It is understood that of the south is to be commanded by Gen. Anzoatigui: it will be reinforced by the patriot forces of Ponda, and it is intended they shall march against Quito, a most important operation to accelerate the independence of the viceroyalty of Lima, and thereby complete the entire expulsion of the Spanish authority out of the whole of South America. The imagination is lost in contemplating the glorious results of the battle of Boyacá—a small and insignificant spot, but like the battles of Austerlitz & Pharsalia, will obtain for it an immortality in history, for having changed the destiny of a great nation.

France.

Marshal Grouchy, under the name of lieutenant general count Grouchy, has, by a public decree of the king, been restored to his rights, titles, rank and honors."

Messrs. Harper and Orr, who collected the tax in Ohio from the Branches of the U. S. Bank, have been discharged by the U. S. Circuit Judges, for illegality in their arrest. They immediately commenced actions in the state courts for false imprisonment against the persons who arrested them, and claim high damages. The event of the Chancery suit is not yet known.—*Argus.*

Pennsylvania. A committee of the legislature of this state, is now engaged in investigating the conduct of Governor *Findlay*. The enquiry will probably be a tedious one, as many witnesses are before the committee.

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