

COMMUNICATION.

Messrs. Printers:—The dissention and heat that has arisen amongst the citizens of Dearborn county, relative to removing the seat of justice, is truly to be lamented. Party zeal, when under the influence of the passions, is apt to carry its votaries to extremes; and that system that would operate for the good of the whole, is frequently lost sight of. Could we calm our passions and let reason take its place, we might experience a profitable lesson from the example of neighboring counties; I think it would dispose us to moderate our passions and expectations, and tend to open our eyes to our true situation, and perhaps arrest in its commencement, a ten years warfare. The citizens of Dearborn county compose in some measure, but one political family, and we are now quarrelling where the mansion house shall be built. We all have our prejudices and opinions, and equal rights. But in viewing our own rights, we are too apt to overlook or undervalue the rights of some others of the family, equally entitled to consideration. All the family agree in the necessity of building the family house, but where to set it is the question on which we disagree. Now would it not be prudent in us, and agreeable to the true Republican principles, to try to obtain a fair expression of the public will of the great family that is concerned, it would be a saving of public treasure; and what is of infinitely more consequence to us a relaxation of the jealousies, heartburnings, and hard thoughts and feelings, that are always engendered by such party feuds. The prospect of having the dispute speedily settled by the mode we are now pursuing, certainly is not very flattering; the present legislature may perhaps, lay the matter over to the next session, for the purpose of deliberating more maturely on the subject, or to obtain a more clear expression of the public will; or perhaps from the great number and respectability of the petitioners for a removal, they may appoint commissioners agreeably to the prayer of the petitions. But in either case have we any good reason to expect it is to end here? No, fellow citizens; we that are to be effected, must change our views, before it will be probable that any set of commissioners, however judiciously appointed, or however judiciously the selection of a site may be made, will please all parties. Let them locate where they will, it will be an easy matter for industry and ingenuity to procure weighty remonstrances against it, while the persons are heated and spurred on by restless, ambitious or interested individuals. It will be suggested immediately that there was improper intrigue practised on the commissioners, or perhaps that there was a lack of judgment or capability properly to discern; and if we apply for and obtain a new set of commissioners, what certainty, have we that the result of their labors, would be more satisfactory? Our views and expectations are so various that a great number must be dissatisfied. Now could a place be devised fairly and speedily to obtain a full expression of the public will of the citizens of the county, I flatter myself it would be more likely to give general satisfaction, than any thing the legislature will, or can do, for us. To obtain this expression of the public will, I would with great deference propose the following plan for the consideration of the citizens, at our next township election, in March:—The citizens of each township to appoint one commissioner or representative for every hundred polls contained in the township, let them be instructed to meet in county meeting, and instructed as far as practicable, as to the place, to vote for as the county seat, making the last assessment roll the data to go by. The committee would consist of 21 members, there being 2165 taxable polls in the county, agreeably to the assessor's books; and thus situated.

Township.	Polls.	Representatives
Logan	198	2
Kelso	95	1
Manchester	325	3
Lawrenceburgh	557	5
Laurelburg	363	4
Randolph	394	4
Sparta	121	1
Cassat Creek	112	1

The committee when met, proceed to ballot where the county seat shall be, and on each balloting, drop the place having the lowest number of votes, and proceed to ballot again, and drop until there shall be only two sites remaining, and publish the result for the consideration of the citizens of the county; and at the August election each voter insert on his ballot one or other of the two places as best pleases himself; and the place having the highest number of votes shall be the place. If this project should be adopted the dispute may be settled in August next, but if we go on as we have begun, any delay for legislative commissioners, the contention may continue this ten years perhaps longer, without some of the parties should be wearied and withdrawn from the contest. Should this plan meet the approbation of my fellow citizens, I will feel happy to see them adopt it, but if it should be considered objectionable, I shall be happier still

to see a better mode pointed out, and would wish you Messrs. Printers to solicit communications on the subject.

SPARTA.

Indiana Legislature.

[Selected from Indianapolis papers.]

House of Representatives, Dec. 28.

Mr. Hays from the committee on canals and internal improvements, made the following report:

The committee on canals and internal improvements, beg leave to report, that they have with intense anxiety, examined the subject of internal improvement, as a subject which is closely blended with the future interests and welfare of our constituents. Keeping steadily a watchful eye upon the resources of the state, they can see a channel through which immense wealth will flow to the coffers of the state, and incalculable commercial facilities may be readily afforded our constituents. At an early period of your committee's consultations—the valley of the Wabash attracted their attention, they delayed acting definitely on the subject, hoping in the mean time to receive some communications from the United States' Engineers, engaged the last summer in a survey—on which to base, with more certainty their calculations—but finding the session wearing apace without receiving any communications on the subject, they thought proper to report favorable on the same. From their own knowledge, and such information as they could derive from the most respectable sources. Your committee, from the best information they can derive—believe that a water communication may be opened from the Miami of the Lake, to the navigable parts of the Wabash, by means of a canal—that will at once open a channel of internal communication, by water, from N. York to New-Orleans, at an expense less than at any other point to them known in America, at a trifling expense, by no means commensurate with the incalculable magnitude of the object in view. Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying bill, to wit: A bill to provide for the survey, and location of a canal from Fort Wayne, to some point on the Wabash river, north of the mouth of the Tippecanoe river, which was read.

Dec. 29.—Mr. Stevens from the Judiciary committee reported as follows:

1st. That, with regard to that part of the Governor's message relative to the northern boundary of the State, from the slight investigation which they have given the subject, are inclined to think that the opinion of his Excellency the Governor is correct, but do not deem it necessary further to discuss or examine the subject at this time, and therefore have not formed a positive opinion respecting the controversy.

2d. With respect to an arrangement and printing of the statutes of Great Britain, in force in this state &c. deem it inexpedient to legislate on the subject at this time.

3d. They deem it inexpedient to repeal the law authorizing the payment of petit jurors out of the county Treasury at this time.

4th. With regard to the resolution inquiring into the expediency of providing by law, a form for Collectors deeds, &c. are of opinion that it is inexpedient to legislate further on the subject, than to provide by the revenue laws. That it is the conduct of the collector and the facts of the case that make those deeds valid in law, and not the form of the deed.

5th. With regard to the resolution inquiring into the expediency of authorizing justices of the peace to hear exculpatory evidence on behalf of any person charged with a criminal offence, when arranged before them for examination, &c. they are of opinion that it is now the law of the land; but that if any doubts exist, whether it be the law or not, they deem it expedient that those doubts should be removed by so amending the criminal code; which amendments can be added to the bill now on file on the subject of crime and punishment. The house concurred in said report generally.

Mr. Burnett, from the military committee to whom the subject of reducing musters and muster fines, was referred—reported a bill to amend an act regulating the militia—Approved, January 20, 1824.

Mr. Reed, from the committee to whom that subject was referred, reported a bill regulating taverns, providing that any person giving security might obtain a license.

Mr. Ferris reported a bill relative to the destroyed records of Dearborn county.

Mr. Bassett, from the committee on that subject, reported a bill to remove the seat of justice of Dearborn county, near the centre.

Mr. Hoover, reported a bill repealing the act authorising called sessions of the Circuit Courts.

The joint resolution relative to fugitives from labor, &c. was taken up, the item respecting the billiard table,* was,

This resolution contemplated a sale of the Billiard table at Washington city, requesting our representative to forward the object,

on motion of Mr. Metlock stricken out, and after considerable discussion, on motion of Mr. Lewis of W. postponed until the first Monday in February.—Ayes 30, Noes 27.

Previous to taking the votes, Mr. Hawk spoke at some length. He observed that he regretted the resolutions had been introduced—they were such as he would not introduce himself; but since they were before the House, he feared if they were postponed the enemies of the extension of the judiciary system, and other measures proposed, would cite to this vote, and it would operate against the interests of the State.

Jan. 1.—Mr. Hillis from the select committee to whom was referred that part of the Governor's Message, which relates to the late treaty with the Indians, reported a joint resolution on that subject.

Mr. Hayes submitted the following report. The committee to whom the petition and remonstrance of the inhabitants of Park county, beg leave to report that in the opinion of the committee the sentiments fairly expressed of the majority of the inhabitants of any country, relative to their local concerns, should be the unerring guide of the Legislature, and as the voice of the county appears from the petition and remonstrances to be decidedly opposed to a removal by a majority of remonstrants to the amount of 64 signers, your committee report that it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of your petitioners.

In Senate, Dec. 29.

Mr. Ewing from the standing committee on Education, reported a joint resolution relative to the establishment of primary schools in the several townships, within the several counties of this state, which was read.

Mr. Rariden from the judiciary committee, introduced a bill to amend an act for the settlement of decedents estates.

The bill relative to Negroes, and persons of color, was postponed until the first Monday in March next.

The bill to divide the state into seven judiciary circuits, and fixing the times of holding courts therein, was postponed indefinitely.—Ayes 13—Noes 8.

The engrossed joint resolution of the General Assembly of the state of Indiana, approving the measures pursued by the general government, was read the third time and passed.

Dec. 30.—The bill repealing called sessions of the Circuit courts was also read the 3d time and passed.—Ayes 17—Noes 4.

The bill providing for three asylums for the reception of the poor was laid on the table.

Mr. Hayes from the committee on canals and internal improvements, introduced a bill to provide for the survey of canal routes within the state of Indiana to establish a board of internal improvements.

Jan. 1. JOINT RESOLUTIONS of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the state of Indiana, that the measures adopted and pursued by the present Administration of the General Government, particularly in extending the Cumberland road westwardly, and in aiding the great interest of internal improvement merit our decided approbation.

Resolved, that whilst in our opinion the interests of the nation, require that we should cautiously and perseveringly abstain from species of involvement in the concerns of Foreign nations, yet that the course pursued by the head of the Government in meeting with congenial feelings, of those friendly overtures of the South American independence, resulted in the mission to Panama, thus giving a decided countenance to the cause of South American Independence, receives our cordial approbation.

Resolved, that our confidence in the President of the United States and the members of his Cabinet, is based upon their public conduct, and is cheerfully accorded them, by this General Assembly.

Resolved, that the Governor be requested to transmit to the President of the United States, and to each of our Senators and Representative in Congress a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

Indianapolis, January 5.

For three days past, the Senate have been engaged as a high court of impeachment; consequently no other business could be acted on by either branch of the Legislature. The trial before them, is the case of THOMAS H. ROBERTS, a Justice of the peace for Floyd county, on a charge of perjury. An universal regret appears to prevail, that no other than the present expensive mode, can be adopted under the Constitution to try these offences. But the expense should not be considered, when the purity of an officer, in whose acts all are more or less interested, is brought in question. Messrs. McKinney and Hawk were appointed managers on the part of the House of Representatives. Mr. Farnham, Assistant Secretary to the Senate, was assigned by the Court as Counsel for the respondent, and Mr. Nelson admitted as assistant. The case was prosecuted and defended with much ability. The plead-

ings commenced at two o'clock on yesterday, and were finished last evening. He was found GUILTY this morning, by a vote of 11 to 9. A motion was made for an arrest of judgment, the decision of which, was laid over until to-morrow.

Gazette.

CONGRESS.

House of Representatives, Dec. 29.

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from JOHN C. CALHOUN, Vice President of the United States, viz:

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives:

SIR: You will please to lay before the House over which you preside, the enclosed communication, addressed to that body.

Very respectfully, yours &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To the Honorable the Members of the House of Representatives:

An imperious sense of duty, and a sacred regard to the honor of the station which I occupy, compel me to approach your body in its high character of grand inquest of the nation.

Charges have been made against me of the most serious nature, and which, if true, ought to degrade me from the high station in which I have been placed by the choice of my fellow citizens, and to consign my name to perpetual infamy.

In claiming the investigation of the House, I am sensible, that under our free and happy institutions the conduct of public servants is a fair subject of the closest scrutiny and the freest remarks, and that a firm and faithful discharge of duty affords, ordinarily, ample protection against political attacks; but when such attacks assume the character of impeachable offences, and become, in some degree, official, by being placed among the public records, an officer, thus assailed however base the instrument used, if conscious of innocence, can look for refuge only to the Hall of the immediate Representatives of the People. It is thus I find myself most unexpectedly placed.

On Wednesday morning last, it was for the first time intimated to me, that charges of a very serious nature against me were lodged in one of the Executive Departments; during the day, rumors from several quarters to the same effect reached me; but the first certain information of their character, was received yesterday morning, through one of the newspapers of the District. It appears, from its statement, that I am accused of the sordid and infamous crime of participating in the profits of a contract formed with the Government, through the Department of War, while I was entrusted with the discharge of its duties, and that the accusation has been officially presented as the basis of an official act of the War Department, and consequently to be placed among its records, as a lasting stigma on my character.

Conscious of my entire innocence in this and every other public act, and that I have ever been incapable, in the performance of duty, or being influenced by any other motive than a sacred regard to the public interest, and resolved as far as human effort can extend, to leave an untarnished reputation to posterity, I challenge the freest investigation of the House, as the only means effectually to repel this premeditated attack to prostrate me, by destroying forever my character.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Vice President of the United States.

WASHINGTON 29th Dec. 1826.

The letter having been read—

Mr. Floyd rose and after some remarks respecting the contract alluded to and the communication of the Vice President, moved that it be referred to a select committee; which was agreed to, and a committee of seven accordingly appointed, with power to send for papers and persons.

ANIMAL SAGACITY.

An extraordinary instance of animal sagacity, and of personal preservation by means of it, is mentioned in the National Advocate of Friday. A small circus in the Bowery, in which an exhibition of wild beasts, such as elephants, tigers, lions, &c. whilst the keeper was at dinner, a tiger and tigress broke from their cage, which was in a dilapidated state, and immediately seized upon a defenceless lama. They were enjoying their repast when the keeper entered. Although alarmed at first, he resumed sufficient courage, (says the Advocate,) to venture into the ring with a noose to cling over the heads of the two ferocious animals, while they were sucking out the last drop of blood from the poor lama. The tigress finishing her repast sooner than her mate, turned round while the keeper was in the very act of catching them, and made preparations to spring upon him. The keeper felt the danger of his situation, but with great presence of mind, made a retreat behind his elephant, who, from the other side of the circus, was looking on the scene with great composure. The tigress did not forget her intent. She made a spring at the keeper past the elephant, but just at this moment the sagacious animal observ-

ing, it would seem, the danger of his keeper, let out his trunk with the celerity of an arrow from the bow, and pitched the tigress to the farther end of the circus. A wonderful hurley burley was now kicked up. All the monkeys and baboons scampered up to the rafters, and the glaring eyes of the enraged tigress struck dread into the whole, except the elephant, who folded up his trunk with neatness after his feat, and the lion, who sat in his cage on his hip like a dog, looking with great dignity and composure. The keeper now ran out from behind the elephant, and approaching his trunk, uttered certain words, which the sagacious animal understands with so much correctness. The elephant unrolled his trunk, the keeper got astride, and in a moment was elevated to the back of his preserver. In the mean time the tigress had recovered from the toss she had got, and made, new preparations to spring upon the keeper, who was upon the back of the elephant. Again the tigress sprang upon the man, again the elephant interposed his trunk and tossed the tigress a second time to the farthest extremity of the circus. This pitch wounded the side of the tigress, and finding there was no use in trying further to tap the jugular of the keeper, she sneaked into her cage with what she had got. While this business was going on, the tiger himself had begun to look round. On raising his head from the lama, the first thing that struck him, was the lion sitting in his cage with great dignity and unconcern. The tiger showed his teeth, the lion slightly shook his mane. The tiger drew back on his hind legs to make a spring; the lion rose up with dignity and shot fire from his eyes. The tiger sprang at the cage with great fury, forcing one of his claws in between two of the bars; and at the same instant the lion seized the tiger's fore foot, caught it firmly between his tusks, pulled the whole leg into the cage and held him there until the keeper seeing the opportunity, flung himself from the back of the elephant, ran with his noose to the tiger, and secured him in a moment. After this was accomplished, the lion generously let go his hold, and the keeper dragged the other to his cage and secured them both. And thus, by a singular train of circumstances, in which the instinct and trunk of the elephant, no less than the teeth and temper of the lion, bore a conspicuous part, did the poor keeper get rescued from the jaws of the tiger and tigress, and the whole affair has been the table talk of the Bowery, for the last week."

From the Baltimore Gazette.

It is now understood in Washington, that Congress intend to retaliate on the British Government for their late order prohibiting the vessels of the U. States from entering the British Colonial ports, by interdicting all intercourse between those ports and the United States. This course is recommended by the Editors of the New York American, who says:—

"It is pretty clear from the note of Mr. Canning to Mr. Gallatin, that, whatever may once have been the merits of the question pending between the two countries, they become, in the actual position of affairs, immaterial to the decision which, as it seems to us, this government is forthwith bound to adopt in relation to British vessels trading between the United States and the Colonies. This intercourse should at once be closed, as it but for the session of Congress being at hand when Mr. Gallatin's despatches were received, we presume it would have been, by proclamation from the President."

The Editors of the Philadelphia Gazette remark on the above paragraph:—"This is a bold proposition and acquires time for consideration. If its adoption should ultimately be deemed necessary, we hope due notice will be given that our merchants may withdraw such effects as they have in the West India Islands."

The New York Evening Post, however, contains the following contradiction of what we have understood to be the intention of Congress.

"A letter of the 14th inst. from a member of Congress in the correctness of whose information we have long been accustomed to place great confidence, says, 'I have hopes after all, that by legislative interposition we may yet save the West India trade.'"

The convention entered into by Mr. GALLATIN, it is said fixes the compensation to be paid for slaves, tobacco, &c. carried off by the British, subsequent to the treaty of Ghent, at one million two hundred thousand dollars. The amount claimed exceeds one million five hundred thousand dollars, and was appropriated as follows:

To Maryland	280,000
Virginia	520,000
Louisiana	150,000
Georgia	480,000
Alexandria D. C.	114,000
Maine	16,000
Mississippi	6,000
Delaware	7,000

Piracy.—Charles Merchant, tried at Boston for piracy and murder on board the schooner Fairy, and has been found guilty.