

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN—I have seen with some pride and an equal degree of pleasure, that our mechanics in this place are determined to do their duty towards the public, and at the same time to claim the rights and privileges due to their situations as members of the municipal family.

The borough of Lawrenceburgh, though subject, in part, to occasional inundations, at periods very distant from each other, is, notwithstanding, one of the most eligible and delightful locations in the western country. Situated on the borders of the beautiful river Ohio, which presents to the ravished eye of the beholder, a pure, limpid, unruined sheet of water, nearly an half mile in width, gently urging its way through hills, the most picturesque and delightful, and lawns the most fertile and flourishing, clothed with all the verdure of Hesperides and all the luxuries of Ceres and Pomona, to mingle its floods with the distant gulf of Mexico. Here too you behold, borne on the smooth bosom of this mighty stream, the gorgeous bark, presenting as it were a new creation, self-moved, thundering along to the place of its destination, charged with the surplus labor of busy millions, dispensing in its way the luxuries of the old world, and the beauty and variety of the new. Every thing in the surrounding country, bears the impress of the unwearied hand of industry, whilst a general climate, and propitious seasons, promise a rich reward to the prudent husbandman. Shall it be said that a place crowned with so many blessings, and enjoying so many local advantages must be permitted to languish, or deteriorate; or that any of its inhabitants should be turned idle, or want the means of a comfortable subsistence, by the prosecution of an erroneous system of local policy? I am a friend to the American system, we are all friends to it—but whilst there is a duty due from the statesman of moral and political integrity, to delineate and mark out the great scheme of national industry, there is a claim upon patriotism and philanthropy to carry it into beneficial operation. The same doctrine which applies to large communities, applies with proportionable force to small ones. The grand object of the whole is mutual assistance; the great end, universal advantage. A place divided against itself, can never thrive; contending and adverse interests cannot subsist together; nor are they, one time out of ten, beneficial to either. The statesman may devise and arrange the very best systems of political economy, and they may be perverted, by a blind adherence to a vicious course of action.

Every good man feels an interest in the prosperity of the country or place which he has chosen for his domicile; and there is perhaps no stronger evidence of a bad heart, than a total destitution of that sentiment. It exists in the very nature of things that it should be so; it originates in the principles of self-love, which is the *prima-mobilla* of all human actions. The first in our affections, are ourselves, our country and our homes. Where is that man who does not feel his heart enthusiastically attached to that spot on which he has erected the altar of his penates? But, why need I refer to first principles? I should not have done so, but mechanic, mechanic like, (and perhaps much more wisely,) has passed them silently by, and applied his argument to practical results. He tells us, in substance, (and I am not disposed to dispute his word,) "That the merchants of this place purchase at a distance, and bring here, manufactured articles which could be supplied at home as cheap, and of a better quality than those which they bring?" "That these articles are brought in such quantities as to overstock the market, and absolutely turn him idle for the want of employment." Now if this be the fact, it is the worst of all bad policies, and it seems to me that cupidity itself would blush to confess it. There must be a fault somewhere, either the mechanic is idle and neglects his best interests, or the merchant perverts his capital to the prostration and ruin of his country and the impoverishment of his countrymen. In the first instance he turns idle, and thereby reduces to penury and want, one of the most valuable classes of our citizens. He destroys the market of the farmer for a large amount of his produce. He throws out of market every valuable article of manufacture which might be made here, and substitutes his own exotic trash in its place. He prevents the farmer or consumer from obtaining those of a good quality, because there are none to be had. By diminishing the number of artisans in the neighborhood, and with them the consumption of a rural products, he compels the farmer to pay the cash for articles which he might otherwise obtain in exchange for his labor. He drains the country of the circulating medium. He throws obstacles in the way of the advancement of the surrounding country, and puts a complete check to the population and improvement of our beautiful little borough. It is folly to

say, that articles, such as hats, saddlery, shoes, various kinds of cutlery, tin ware, &c. &c. cannot be made here, as cheap as any where else. The raw material grows under our feet; we have every advantage of water and steam power; and we have, as to the articles above enumerated, as industrious and accomplished artisans as the world can produce. Hence I ask how is it possible, that they can be made of as good quality, transported near 1000 miles, percentage, storage, commission, freight, and interest on the capital vested paid, all risk and hazzard run, and yet be sold here lower than they can be made in the place. It is a paradox—it cannot be done. I am much inclined to believe what Mechanic says—they must be of a very inferior quality, not to say a fraud on the public. I hope the merchant will not think I am attacking his motives or his heart, by what I have said or may say, for I can assure him nothing is more foreign to my mind; for I believe they are as honest as the rest of us; I am only conceding what is due to the imperfections of our nature, while I firmly believe he is labouring under mistaken views of his own interest. I think however, I hear them say it is *capital, capital*, that produces this magical effect upon prices. Why, I grant the omnipotence of capital—but *labour* is CAPITAL: it is all that gives intrinsic value to any article of manufacture or merchandise, that, added to a ready market, supplies all the place of capital. The mechanics have the labour, and are willing to furnish it. Leave the market open to them for their own products, and they can furnish them as cheap, say, cheaper than any part of the world. Why not? Land is cheaper here than any where else; provisions are cheaper, and common clothing is not more costly.

The farmer is more deeply interested in this matter, than at first blush he might suppose. Suffer this mistaken policy to continue until the mechanics are all driven from their occupations, they become farmers with them; and from consumers of their products they become producers; consequently their markets are, by so much diminished, and not only so, but with the mechanics, you drive out of the country, every well manufactured article, and leave only, the imported trash in its place, which they will then be compelled to take of the merchant, at whatever price he may please to set on it. I say there must be something wrong in this business, or those complaints would not be heard so generally, from a class of men known and admitted, as a body, to be industrious, frugal and temperate in their mode of life; and I think the causes will be found to originate in the source referred to by Mechanic. If we examine a little, its operation in detail, we shall find pretty much the following result:—In the first place, there are about a sufficient number of mechanics fully to supply the country with the articles they manufacture; the quantity brought on by the merchants, tend completely to glut the market, and retard the ordinary sales of the makers; of course their business at once languishes, their products are left upon their hands, until their capital, which from the nature of things must be small, is exhausted; they are at length compelled to sell at some price or other, even at a great sacrifice, to procure the means of immediate subsistence, and to pay their honest debts. These articles are generally of good materials, and well made, and which by being placed in this miserable dilemma, they are compelled for once to reduce down to the price at which the merchant sells his imported trash; and indeed, perhaps forced at last, to run the best bargain they can with the merchant himself, to obtain relief from their present embarrassments. Here the matter ends with the mechanic; his stock is wrought up; his work sacrificed; his little capital gone, and himself driven by necessity, to seek a little job, from any that will favor him with one; until at last he is forced to abandon his business, and he and his family are feign to seek refuge from their misfortunes in the wilderness, or haggle along through life, at a profession or calling with which he is totally unacquainted. Such is the result of all bad systems of municipal policy. They paralyze the arm of industry; they crush the poor, who are the strength of the nation; they annihilate enterprise, and that laudable competition which leads to the improvement of the sciences and the arts; impoverishes the nation, and robs it of its best and surest resources. I have called this a mistaken policy in our merchants; I have called it so, because I believe they are mistaken in its practical operations, and would be glad to retract, the moment they are convinced of their error. Let us therefore examine it for a moment, and see if it be erroneous or not. I hold it to be a correct principle, that if the merchants can make the same profits on their vested capitals, without thus interfering with the market of the artists or mechanics, that they do with it, they are in conscience bound, as honest men & patriots, to desist; or if the artists here, will supply them with those articles, as cheap and as good as they can obtain them at a distance, they are in conscience, bound to encourage them, by giving them a preference in their dealings.

I hold it as an opinion not to be shaken by argument, that in a place like this, combining so many local advantages, situated upon the high road to market, where the raw material can be had as cheap or cheaper, than almost any where else, and where the necessities of life, of every kind are as low, or perhaps lower, than manufactures of every description and particularly those heretofore enumerated, can be made, not only at as little cost as at any other place in the world, if proper encouragement be given to the business, but the amount may be augmented to an indefinite extent. Suppose then the merchants would give this encouragement, they would draw around them a class of customers, valuable citizens, who would add ten times more to the stock of national & individual wealth than all the profits of their little peddling policy. The goods that those persons would purchase of them, would net them more clear profit in one year, than they could realize by the sale of their imported trash in a life time. As the business augmented, the number of citizens would increase of course, the sales of the merchant, and consequently their profits, while the place would populate, a new spring be given to industry, improvements would naturally follow, and instead of our streets, being filled with men destitute of employment, you would hear nothing but the busy hum of labor in every workshop, and the song of cheerful contentment from every dwelling. Practice only it is said, proves theories, but calculations illustrate them—however dry they may be, I beg leave to submit one before I close this communication. It will appear I think from the following calculation, that the merchants gain nothing by the trade they drive in those exotic articles of manufacture. Suppose we say the amount of local consumption for those articles is \$10,000 and that they furnish one half of them. Twenty five per cent is as much as any merchant ought to make on his capital, and no honest one would claim to make more, the amount gained would be \$1,250—he likewise sells, of goods to the mechanic another thousand dollars worth on which he clears \$250 more, making in all \$1,500 on his \$5000 of vested capital, suppose the market be left open to the mechanic, the making of the whole ten thousand dollars worth of these articles falls into his hands, finding no obstructions to his sales, he is enabled to get on with his business although his capital be limited; the increased quantity he has to furnish, enables him likewise to put them to the merchant if he choose to buy of him at, say, 12 1-2 per cent below his ordinary selling price, whereby the merchant realizes that much profit, clear of all risk and charges. He may perhaps sell him a portion, say \$2,000 worth of the raw material, upon which he also clears 25 per cent. The increased quantity of labor requires a greater number of hands, who likewise become customers to the merchant, while the mechanic has the necessity, coupled with the ability, of sustaining a much greater disbursement than formerly, chiefly all of which, by a mutual good understanding is made to pass through the hands of the merchant and which contribute to augment his sales and of course his profits. From the above statement I make the following table:

\$2000 worth of raw material, sold mechanic at 25 per cent.	\$500 00
1000 worth of goods, sold mechanic at 25 per cent.	250 00
2000 worth of goods disbursed for mechanic at 25 per cent.	500 00
1000 worth of goods sold to hands at 25 per cent.	250 00
2000 worth of articles sold at 12 1-2 per cent. advance	250 00
	\$1,750 00

Deduct the previous statement 1,500 00

Leaving a clear profit of \$250 00 more than he can make by his mistaken policy; and suppose the business of the mechanic to be augmented to double the former or usual amount, the merchant gains in proportion therewith.

These ideas have been thrown together in a great hurry; however they will, I think, be found pretty correct generally. I am the friend of domestic industry, and disposed to favor it as far as I can, and if what I have said shall throw any light upon the subject, or benefit the mechanic and the public, I shall have received my reward.

PHILIP MECHANIC.

Messrs Editors—You will do a favor to several friends of the "American System," by publishing in your paper the speech of that enlightened and untiring friend and advocate of liberal principles, Mr. ANDREW STEWART, a member of congress from Fayette county, Pennsylvania, delivered at a dinner on the 4th of July last at his place of residence, in which he, in a clear, fearless, and masterly manner, points out the course of the enemies to the "American System" during the last session of congress; and on whom we have to rely for the support of our best interests.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Our Representative in Congress—His untiring zeal in support of the "American System," in protecting and defend-

ing our interests from the assaults of our enemies, "foreign & domestic, open and insidious," entitle him to the thanks of his constituents, and the gratitude of his country.

After the cheering which followed this toast had ceased, Mr. Stewart rose and said:

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

I should not only violate what seems to be an established custom, but be wanting in duty to you, and to myself, were I not to thank you for the sentiment with which you have just honored me.

Regarding the measures to which you have referred as identified with the best interest of our country. I have at all times given them my cordial support. If my humble efforts in their behalf, have met your approbation, my highest ambition is gratified.

Born and brought up, gentlemen, among you, expecting as I do, to live and to die amongst you, with all my attachments and associations in life inseparably blended and mingled with yours. If I have pursued a course calculated to promote my own.

I am aware that I owe you many thanks. I should be ungrateful indeed were I not deeply penetrated, with a sense of the repeated obligations under which your kindness and partiality have placed me. In a life yet short, I have often been a candidate for public favor among you, and I can truly say that the result has never failed to exceed my most sanguine expectations. It is to your favor, and to the kind indulgence of the people of Fayette and Greene, that I am indebted for whatever little of public consideration I may possess, and for which I shall never cease to cherish the most grateful recollections.

My past course is known to you all; as to the future, I have nothing to conceal. I hold it to be the right of the people to know, and the duty of every man claiming public confidence frankly and publicly to declare his opinions on all great questions of national policy. To conceal those opinions, may sometimes be *politic*, but is it candid? Is it honorable? Is it fair for any man to call upon the public to decide in his case, and withhold from them the evidence necessary to enlighten and to guide their determination?

In the presidential contest which now agitates the country, and which has mingled too much in the deliberations of congress, in my public capacity, I have taken no part. It is a question which belongs not to congress, but to the people to decide, and it should be left to their free and unbiased determination uninfluenced by congressional dictation. Should the choice however again devolve upon congress, voting in my representative character, I shall again express by my vote the known wishes of a majority of those whom I have the honor to represent. But when I go to mingle my individual ballot with yours at the polls I will give my vote to the man I consider best qualified and who will best administer the affairs of the government. At present I stand uncommitted—I am pledged to no man; I denounce no man, but to principles I am pledged, and by these, and these only will I be governed. I will vote for no man who is not in principle and in practice a *republican*, and who is not openly and decidedly the advocate of the power and policy of protecting domestic manufactures and promoting internal improvements; these with me, are indispensable qualifications.

At peace with all the world, the foreign relations of our country present no questions of doubtful policy or difficult determination; but the attention of American statesmen, is at this time principally attracted to the great and important subject of establishing a wise and permanent system of internal policy adopted to the present situation and exigencies of our country: a system having for its object the development of our own vast resources, and the improvement of our internal condition on the one hand, and on the other to counter-vail the restrictive and prohibitory policy of other countries toward us, by extending equal and adequate protection to every branch of the national industry to agriculture, to manufacture, to commerce. A system providing for a just and equal expenditure of the public revenue throughout the whole country from which it is drawn, by every where building up proud and permanent, and glorious monuments of internal improvement facilitating "internal commerce among the several states," the north with the south the east with the west, uniting and bringing them together by strong and indissoluble bonds; promoting their defence in war and their prosperity in peace. In short a system dispensing its benefits and its blessings alike to all, shedding joy and gladness over this free and happy land—and what system is to accomplish all this? I answer, that system to which you have just referred; the *American System* which the next congress will be called on to adopt or to reject. On this great question, so interesting to us all, the parties in congress are nearly equally divided. The contest will therefore be obstinate and protracted. Pennsylvania holds the scale between the north and the south

if she is faithful to herself, to her best interest, to her uniform principles and policy all will be safe, otherwise all will be lost and the country left in its present unimproved, dependant and embarrassed condition.

The South & the opposition generally, you will again find arrayed in solid column against this system of policy. The attack will be furious, but it will be met with firmness. The debates on the *survey* and *Wool* bills of the last session, were but a prelude to the coming storm; on the latter bill in the Senate, in the 12 SLAVE STATES there was but one for it, and in the 12 FREE STATES there was but one vote against it. The object and aim of the opposition (open and avowed by many of its leaders) is to prostrate and break down this whole system of policy, and especially the policy of extending protection to domestic manufactures. Do you want evidence of the fact? Look at their public meetings and their legislative enactments; do you not see this policy denounced as unconstitutional, unjust, and oppressive? Do you not hear their leading Senators and members in congress declare it more odious than the "stamp act," another says it is more to be deprecated than war itself; a third, that it would be resisted, and a fourth declares that in war against these measures, he would enlist under any banner and follow any leader; with these facts staring us in the face, who can doubt the object of this great and formidable party? But great and formidable as it is, it will be met with reason and firmness, and I trust in God, it will be overcome, and its object defeated. To this party and to their policy, I need scarcely say I am decidedly opposed—I can make no compromise of principles. I should be a traitor to you—to my country, and to myself, if I did.

If the present administration and its friends support, as they do, this system of policy, am I required by any of you to desert it, and join the opposition. If they support the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as they did, only one member in the whole six New England states voting against the bill, which passed on this subject; am I also to desert this favorite measure of yours and join the opposition in opposing it? If they advocate appropriations to repair and extend the Cumberland road, must I join the opposition on this subject too; least I may be called an *administration man*, who among all my constituents, would require me to pursue such a faithless unprincipled, and dishonorable course? No, gentlemen; so far as this policy and these measures are concerned, I am an *administration man*, and I should merit the just reprobation of every honest man in the community if I were not.

Gentlemen I have no interest to promote separate to yours. From the present administration I never have and I never will ask any favor personal to myself: I aspire to no higher situation than that which I derive from the kindness and favor of the people of this district, a favor and kindness already extended far beyond my deserts. In my public course (if I know myself) I have had but one object, and that was to promote the true interests of my constituents; these interests I have endeavored to understand, I have marked the movements of men and the progress of events with reference to those interests when the best opportunities were afforded of forming a correct judgment, and I am free to say the result has been a firm and settled conviction that to promote your interest, and the interest of my country, I must support the policy of the present administration, the policy of the "American System." It is the policy of Pennsylvania, and of the nation, calculated alike to promote our prosperity, independence and happiness, and to accelerate our rapid and onward march to greatness and to glory.

Believing on the other hand as I do, that it is the great and primary object of the opposition to arrest these measures and to prostrate this system of policy so important to us all, I shall resist their efforts; I should be base and recreant if I did not. I care not by what wiles or with what weapons they wage war against these measures—I care not what names they may assume, or with what names they may be associated—I care not with what mighty political instrument they may aim the mortal blow; for one, humble as I am, I will attempt to ward it off, though I may fall beneath it. I have no wish politically, to survive the downfall of these measures.

This course gentlemen, may not be trimmed to the popular breeze; it may not tally with the present state of popular opinion; yet it is a course which accords with the great and true interests of the country, and sooner or later it will receive the sanction of the public approbation. Already has the course of the opposition alarmed many of our most distinguished and clear-sighted statesmen, it has opened the eyes of the farmers and manufacturers, to a true view of the subject and just sense of their danger. The next session of congress will remove the mask, and disclose the true aim of their batteries to every eye unblinded by prejudice. Pennsylvania ever faithful to herself and the country will stand