

have every confidence in the justice of your decision.

Your Fellow Citizen,
OLIVER H. SMITH.
Connersville, February, 12th, 1831.

COMMUNICATION.

For the Palladium.

The laws of Maine considered.

Mr. Editor—Having promised in a late communication to consider some of the laws of Maine, as being more equitable and just than those of our own state, I now proceed to redeem it. In doing this I shall no doubt gain the disapproval of some and the ridicule of others. It may, and no doubt will, be said that those laws do not concern us, nor would they be wholesome here. That some of them would not I am ready to admit, but there are others that would—laws that have long received the sanction of the people as being wholesome and good; and it may justly be doubted whether any amendments for the better can be made unto them. It is in consequence of their long standing and universal approval that I refer to them. Without further ceremony I shall proceed to consider the "Revenue law," which provides, "that a just valuation of the real and personal property of each individual shall be made from time to time, and that each individual shall be taxed according to such valuation—money at interest not excepted. This to me appears just and equal. Those that possess most pay most, and just in the same proportion. But not so with us.—Our laws provide that the man who is only worth 80 acres of unimproved land, with a small log cabin, shall pay as much tax as does the man with the same quantity of land under the highest state of improvement, and with the most splendid buildings; per chance worth more dollars than the former is worth cents. The former must also pay as much tax for his horse or his ox not worth more than 15 or 20 dollars, as the latter does for those of the most valuable kind. This to me appears quite oppressive. But says an objector, so then "The man who toils hard, and saves all that he can, must have an increase of tax, while the slothful and prodigal realize a corresponding reduction." The objection I grant is so far correct; but it should be remembered on the other hand, that many indolent and prodigal men are wealthy, while the industrious and frugal remain poor. And it is worthy of remark, and I hazard the expression, that it is the fewest of men that become wealthy by labor and strict honesty. The indolent not unfrequently become wealthy by entering into such speculation as is not the love of ease and money would justify. "Tis true that if a poor man should be in distress, they have both principle and ambition enough to call and see him. The misfortune is, however, they only call to take an advantage of his necessity; and if they obtain his property for less than one half of its real value, they justify themselves by saying they have done as they agreed, speaking after the manner of men. This may be correct, but when tested by "The perfect law," which provides that "We should do to others as we would that they should do to us," it may safely be anticipated that "*mene tekel*!"—"Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting"—will be written on all such. I make these remarks without any personal reference, merely to show that wealth is sometimes ill gotten, and that humble poverty cannot be avoided. "The poor ye always have with you," said a wiser than Solomon.—It is, therefore, an imperfection in all human legislation that every act cannot with equal justice be applied to every individual subject. The general good is all that can rationally be anticipated from such legislation. And it certainly requires no deep penetration to see that it would be less oppressive to tax the individual who may be worth his thousands and tens of thousands, 5 or 10 dollars too much, than it would be to tax the poor, unfortunate laborer one cent too much, for the former would still have left "enough to spare." But again, according to the objector's reasoning, the man who owns one horse or yoke of oxen should pay as much tax, as does the man who owns 3 or 4. "Tis true he has not as many, but then he might have had, and therefore should be taxed accordingly. So also the man who owns 80 acres of land should pay as much as does the man who owns 800 acres, or 80 times that quantity—for it is his own fault, because he was indolent—he might have got as much. By a parity of reasoning we might better say, tax every man alike, and then let them get little or much just as they please and as they can. Reduce it to this, and what statesman or politician would dare advocate its cause? And what better I would ask, is the present revenue law of our state? It is certainly the same in principle; its only variation is in degree.

I am, therefore, fully resolved that I will not hereafter, either directly or indirectly, be accessory to the election even of my most familiar friend to the legislature, who shall not stand publicly pledged to do his or their best endeavor to carry the ad valorem system of taxation into speedy effect. I may not live to see this measure adopted, yet I confidently believe that it ultimately will be. And if I can in any degree be instrumental in advancing so good and just a cause, it will ever remain a subject of agreeable reflection to me—the displeasure of the oppressor and office seeker to the contrary notwithstanding.

I repeat, that I have no personalities in view in any of the foregoing statements. Nor do I pretend to expect that the representatives of Dearborn can carry this measure into effect, without the concurrence of the other counties. Let this subject therefore be fairly laid before the voters of Indiana, through the medium of those papers, friendly to its adoption, that the people throughout the state may be prepared to act in general concert at the next August election. I would not be understood to say that those who have hitherto voted against this measure, have acted corruptly: it may have been the result of an honest difference in opinion.

I have dwelt at some length upon this subject, because I consider it one of vital importance; nor are these suggestions the mere impulse of the moment, I have long reflected upon the subject, and hand them out deliberately, and if they are incorrect, on me let the responsibility rest. In this communication I have taken no other liberties than those enjoyed by my fellow citizens: that of investigating the character of public measures and public men. The remaining items which I purpose to consider, being less important, will be considered with corresponding brevity.

A. J. COTTON.

Manchester, Feb'y 16th, 1831.

New York. William L. Marcy has been elected a senator of the United States for six years from the 3d of March next, in the place of Mr. Sanford. The vote in caucus was—for Mr. Marcy 77, Erastus Root 15, Mr. Sanford 6—scattering 6. And, in the legislature, for Mr. Marcy 107—32 for another person, or persons.

Niles.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

From the New-York Courier and Enquirer.

France. The trial of the ex-ministers has terminated; we have only space to-day to give the sentence passed on them by the Chamber of Peers. The people of Paris were in a state of the greatest excitement during its progress, and the government displayed a large military force to prevent the commotions they apprehended. A correspondent says "the great square of the Louvre presented one dense mass of National Guards fully equipped. The cannon were all served, and the streets upon the quays were all paraded by strong pickets. The cavalry were mounted, and the Lancers and Chasseurs of the line had hay slung over the saddles of their horses as ready for active service." Notwithstanding these imposing demonstrations, appearances become more threatening, and while the alarm was greatest, General Lafayette, repaired to the place of confinement of the Ex-ministers, demanded a bed in their prison, and said he would not quit it until the sanctuary of the laws was secured. Happily no serious consequences ensued and the men themselves are now left to ponder over their follies or their crimes in perpetual seclusion.

There appear to be other causes, however, which have continued to agitate the public mind in France. A strong opposition to the King's Ministers has shown itself in the Chamber of Deputies, and all the purely liberal party has retired. Dupont de l'Eure, Odellon Barrot and Treillard have relinquished office and, with them, General Lafayette: the resignation of the latter is thus announced in the Moniteur.

REPORT TO THE KING.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

"Sir—M. Le General Lafayette has offered his resignation as Commandant-General of the National Guard of the Kingdom. Applications were made to the General that he should renounce the resolution which has afflicted the heart of your Majesty and has deprived France of his great services. The resolution of General Lafayette, was fixed; the admirable conduct of the National Guards of Paris in every circumstance where it had to defend the liberty and public order, merits the praise of the country.

"I have the honor to propose to your Majesty to name Count Lobau, Lieutenant-General as Commandant-General of the National Guard of Paris.

(Signed) "MONTALVET."

Extract from the King's address.

"Brave National Guards—You will partake of my regret in learning that General Lafayette has given in his resignation. I flattered myself that I should have seen him longer at your head, and animating your zeal by his example, and by the great services he has rendered the cause of liberty. I feel his resignation the more, as he has but a short time to live. This brave General took a glorious part to maintain order in the late agitation. I find another consolation in naming Count Lobau Commandant-General of the National Guards of Paris. He joined and partook in your dangers in your glory on the memorable days of July; his brilliant military qualities and his patriotism rendered him worthy to command this Citizen Militia, by which I am proud to be surrounded; and have given me new pledges of their confidence and affection. LOUIS PHILIPPE.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

The motives which led to his resignation, are in one paper stated as follows:

The Chamber of Deputies, apparently alarmed for reform, passed a vote enacting that the National Guards should not be permitted to choose their own General.

The consequence of this vote would have been the removal of Lafayette; but this ungrateful, unpopular, and perilous step was to have been obviated by a direct appointment from the King. To this, however, the patriotic General would not submit. Subsequently the King sent for "his old and long attached friend," and the invitation was accepted.

Lafayette declared that he appeared not as an unconnected individual, but as a negotiator; and in reply to the King's earnest entreaty that he would re-accept the command in chief of the Guards from his hands, said that he could never do so, without an infusion of popular strength into his Majesty's present Councils, and the introduction of such an electoral law as would satisfy the people, and give solidity to the institutions of the revolution.

The General himself, however, has given the following explanation of his resignation in the Chamber:

Resignation of Lafayette.—The sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 27th December, was numerously attended in consequence of the extraordinary degree of interest excited by recent occurrences. The Chamber were proceeding to the discussion of the law relative to the National Guard, when

Gen. Lafayette entered, and was received with universal applause, upwards of one hundred members going up to him and shaking his hand. The General then went to the President, and after a short, conversation with him, addressed the Chamber as follows:

"In a neighboring nation it is the custom when a citizen retires from a distinguished office, for him to come before his fellow citizens, and explain the cause, and I am sure the Chamber will grant me the same favor. I always have considered that the post of Commander-in-Chief of the National Guards of France was incompatible with a constitutional monarchy, except under circumstances of the most absolute necessity. It was this conviction that led me, in 1790, when 3,000,000 of National Guards wished to elect me their commander, at the Federation, by 13,000 Deputies, to apply to the Constituent Assembly, and urge them to issue a decree in opposition to this desire. Such still was my opinion when the Lieutenant-General of the Kingdom, who has since become our King, wished me to accept the same appointment, and I felt myself bound to accept it, but always retaining the intention of laying it down, as soon as I was satisfied that it was no longer necessary for me to retain it, earlier if peace remained unbroken, but at a later period had war ensued. The declared opinion of the chamber hastened the period, and out of respect for it I have not waited till the law was submitted to the other branches of the state. It is merely a matter of date; but I should be deeply hurt, if any one imagined, and no one, who has been acquainted with me during the last 54 years of my life, can believe, that my conduct has been dictated by any personal feeling. I will go further, and say, that this opinion of the Chamber has afforded me an opportunity. The high authority with which I was invested, has given umbrage, which you, gentlemen, must have heard of; and this umbrage has even been felt in certain diplomatic circles. The cause is now at an end, and I have now no other honor than that of being one of your colleagues. One word more, gentlemen, I should not have given in my resignation, which the King has accepted with all that goodness he has ever shown towards me, before the crisis we have now happily got over was at an end. At this time my conscientious love of public order is satisfied, but I cannot say the same of my conscientious love of liberty. We must all recollect the programme announced at the Hotel de Ville—a popular throne, supported by republican institutions. It was accepted, but we have not all put the same construction upon it; it has not always been interpreted by the councils of the King, in the same sense in which it was understood by me, who am more impatient than others, that it should be realized; and whatever may have been my personal independence in all situations, I feel myself at the present moment more at my ease in discussing my opinions with you. For the rest, there are points upon which we shall always be in accord, we shall ever be united against our enemies, whether at home or from abroad. I still think that in the measure taken in the Revolution of July, we not only did that which we verily believed was for the best, but that we did all that was possible to be done. I am the more convinced of this, since I have become intimately acquainted with the personage we have placed on the throne. On throwing off my uniform, I have not changed my motto, "Liberty, Public Order." Besides, how many legal means we have of expressing our thoughts, and making our wishes known; for there is the Tribune of this Chamber, and for every citizen there is the press, which has rendered the country so many services; and then there is the peaceable mode of petitions. Having thus yielded to my desire of laying all my sentiments before you, I trust I shall still and ever retain your esteem and friendship."

The project of the law presented by the French ministers to the Chamber of Deputies, seems to be the chief cause of these differences of opinion. The project itself is too long to be placed in our columns to-day—its effect would be to double the present number of electors, and to make a few other unimportant or unsatisfactory changes. There are 7,000,000 heads of families in France, and it is intended to limit the franchise to 160,000 of the richest persons, in the proportion of 1 elector to 44 heads of families. A measure of reform which to us seems a mere mockery of the claims of the people.

Another important step taken by the King, is the dissolution of the artillery of the National Guard, attributed by one journal to "a sweeping radicalism" which had taken possession of them, and was a perpetual source of irritation and discord between the companies."

In addition, the King's Government is charged with a want of energy in acting against those who disturbed the peace of the capital—with having allowed, at the time General Lafayette, when

was issuing his orders of the day for the preservation of tranquility, the students of the different schools to issue also an order, in which they stated that the King had engaged to make important concessions if the peace of Paris was preserved and the apprehended crisis averted. M. Lafite denied the authenticity of this proclamation of the students, but it is certain that at his motion, these youths were voted the thanks of the Chamber of Deputies for their services in maintaining quiet, a vote which they indignantly rejected, because the Chamber did not in their opinion represent the feelings, or speak the voice of France. We give an interesting speech of M. Lafite on the state of affairs in that country.

M. Lafite rose and addressed the Chamber. Ministers have been asked what was their system? Abroad—Ministers had adopted the system of non-intervention.—The five great Powers of Europe have acknowledged and signed the independence of Belgium. (Cheers.)—During the negotiations, the Powers had taken up arms with a view to security rather than of aggression. France considered it necessary to arm herself in her turn; the preparations for war continue, and they will not be suspended till foreign powers shall cease to arm themselves. A great trial has just been concluded; the enemies of the public repose attempted to subdue the revolution of July, and the Government proved upon this occasion how it understood public order and liberty. It perceived the danger, and announced that every one would do his duty, and every one did his duty—the citizens and their illustrious General. The Government told you that probably there was a conspiracy; it put this doubt in the place of a certainty, in order that it might not excite surprise. As no other information upon the details of the events, a judicial inquiry is in progress, and the delay which a conscientious investigation requires must be granted.—Moreover, the offences committed in popular tumults do not present themselves as conspiracies. These offences are frequently only the consequence of being misled. The real crime remains with the perfidious instigators, who seek to take advantages of the misdemeanors of weak-minded men. (Hear.) Documents are already in the hands of justices. Written documents will prove that the enemies of July mixed themselves with the enemies of December, and that alone they cannot allege as an excuse their excessive love of liberty. We have these words written with their hands—we must have a Republic to drive away the family of Orleans.

The illustrious Chief of the National Guards resigned his post, notwithstanding our persuasions; he wished to imitate the noble example of Washington; he did a little earlier that which he would have done a little later. One of our colleagues, whose virtues have shed so much lustre upon the Administration, had also the intention of resigning his share in the government; he would not do it on the eve of danger, but he did it the day after. One of our officers is at the head of the National Guard, and you know what men have entered into the Ministry. Our system will not be altered, gentlemen, by these changes. We shall proceed in the paths of regeneration opened in July, and whenever the laws may be threatened we will make them respected. The names of the men recently called into the Ministry ought to give confidence to the friends of liberty. An election law, founded upon wide and solid basis, will show we understand the institution that should be given to France. The opinion of the Government, that each ought to have complete action in public affairs. At home and abroad, the system of the Government cannot appear doubtful to any one. Abroad, it requires that France should be listened to; at home it requires liberty, but with laws.

We feel pleasure in adding however that the late accounts from Paris represent the state of things in a more favorable light. The mobs had dispersed and the public fund had risen very materially.

Sentences upon the Ex Ministers. We have just received from our own Reporter the sentences passed upon the State prisoners, whose trial has excited so much attention in France, and throughout Europe. Our readers will learn with satisfaction that their lives have been spared, and the friends of freedom will rejoice that its finest triumph has thus been spared a stain, which, however, it might be the work of justice, would savor of vengeance. The blood of these men will not be shed, but yet a large oblation has been made upon the altar of offended justice and outraged national rights. The remainder of their days is doomed to incarceration—and incarceration within the limits of France. They are deprived of all property, titles, honors, and attributes of distinction whatever, and degraded to the lowest class of convicts suffered to exist, living monuments of the forbearance of a great, but undy-

ing examples of the danger of trampling upon the liberties of a free people.

The sentence finds all the prisoners guilty of "High Treason," upon the charge of having subscribed the illegal ordinances; but, because the Charter is silent, or obscure, as to punishment for that offence, the Court supplies the omission by adjudging them to transportation, which, being impracticable out of France, is changed to perpetual imprisonment within its boundary. There is a difference between the cases of Prince Polignac and the other three—that he is condemned to "civil death," whereas Peyronnet, Chantelauze, and G. Ranville, are to be held "legally interdicted" only. They are all to be subject to the costs of the prosecution before the Court of Peers.

Paris, it will be seen by our Private Correspondence, was tolerably quiet, and, in some degree through the humane interference of the King and Lafayette, reconciled to this sentence.

MINT U. STATES—OPERATION, 1830.
Mint of the U. S. Philadelphia, 1st Jan. 1831.

Sir, I have the honor to submit a report on the general transactions of the mint within the last year.

The coinage effected within that period amounts to \$3,155,620, comprising \$643,105 in gold coins, \$2,495,400 in silver, \$17,115 in copper, and consisting of 8,357,191 pieces of coin, viz:

Half eagles, 126,351 making \$631,755

Quarter eagles, 4,540 11,350

Half dollars, 4,764,810 2,382,460

Dimes, 510,040 51,000

Half dimes, 1,340,000 62,000

Cents, 1,711,500 17,115

8,357,191 \$3,155,620

Of the amount of gold coined within the last year, about \$125,000 were derived from Mexico, South America, and the West Indies; \$19,000 from Africa, \$466,000 from the gold region of the United States, and about \$83,000 from sources not ascertained.

Of the gold of the United States above mentioned, \$24,000 may be stated to have been received from Virginia, \$204,000 from North Carolina, \$26,000 from South Carolina, and \$212,000 from Georgia.

In the last annual report, the progressive development of the gold region of the United States was illustrated by referring to the increase of the annual receipts from North Carolina, which, previous to 1824, had been inconsiderable, but, from that year to 1829 inclusive, had advanced from \$5,000 to \$123,000, and, also, to the then novel occurrence of gold having been received at the mint from Virginia, and South Carolina, about \$2,500 having been received from the former, and \$3,500 from the latter. The past year exhibits, in relation to all those states, a conspicuous increase in the production of gold, and presents, also, the remarkable fact of \$212,000 in gold received from Georgia, from which state no specimen thereof had been presented at the mint in any previous year.

The coinage above exhibited exceeds the amount of any former year. The demand remains, nevertheless, unabated; and the mass of bullion now in the vaults of the mint is large beyond any previous example.

These facts confirm the expediency of the provisions for extending the mint establishment, and indicate that the measure has not been premature. In relation to the structure erecting under these provisions, I have the satisfaction to state, that, although its progress has been, during a part of the past season, unexpectedly impeded, the preparations making for a vigorous prosecution of the work at the earliest practicable moment, authorise the hope that the commencement of the operations of coining in the new edifice will be deferred but for a short period beyond the time contemplated when the foundation of the building was laid, namely the fourth of July of the present year. Nor is a less confident hope entertained that the character of the structure, as a public edifice, and its efficiency for the purpose of its destination, will be found to accord with the wishes of the government, as indicated by the appropriations granted for the object.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL MOORE.

The president of the United States.

The art of punning—At Washington.—The Peck Measure has been disposed of.—Judge Peck has not been broke, but only marked. His Lawless proceedings have made him a "Peck of troubles." If his measure of justice be not full, we trust he has enough to caution him against meting it out to others by a false standard. But we question, whether the people of Missouri will be content, that justice shall still be measured to them by this Peck so marked by the Senate. A Lawless spirit will still prevail, and Judge Peck will be pecked at by every peccadillo. But should grievances be heaped upon them by Pecks, Bushels and Barrels, we beg that they will not bring them to this market; for to attempt to break a Judge by impeachment, is but a peculation upon the Treasury. *Globe.*