

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 29th, 1834.

To the Editors of the *Republican & Banner*.

In your paper of the 18th you complain, that your correspondents have been unmindful of you, but in charity believe they are "filling up." You are mistaken, sirs, they are emptying out. If you will but observe a journal of the proceedings of the Legislature, which has been duly copied into the papers of this place, and regularly mailed for your office, you will find no small quantity of *froth*, which must be worked off, or *emptied out*, if you please, before any thing of importance can be done.

You may not be surprised, but your readers will be, when I inform you that to-day closes the third week of the session, and *nothing* has been done. If a reason is wanting for this apparent abuse of time, it is at hand. The Legislature is comprised of an unusual number of new members, (two-thirds,) they are nearly all pledged to *do or undo* something, and in their efforts to redeem their promises the journal will show, they have not been remiss. When they have completed their attempts, at bettering the condition of the people, and furnished their constituents with indubitable evidence that "all is not gold which glitters," business important and necessary will find countenance in the halls of the Legislature.

Among the subjects agitated this session; a radical change in the probate system, the commencement of a general system of internal improvement;

a change as to the mode of electing township officers; and a project of loaning two or three hundred thousand dollars on the faith of the 3 per cent. fund will be found the most important.

As these matters are yet in an incipient stage, I will await their further progress before I advance an opinion as to their ultimate decision.

Applications for state roads, are numerous, and will continue to increase until the legislature adopts a more correct mode of distributing the 3 per cent fund, than that heretofore pursued. All the county roads, cart-ways and cow-paths, will in a few years be converted into state roads. This kind of Legislation, which I regard as worse than useless, is the effect of another evil, that of dividing the 3 per cent fund, and scattering it over the state as a farmer would scatter his wheat over a field in seed time.

Some new counties will be organized and probably our extensive unorganized territory in the north, will be laid off by imaginary lines, into counties, to prevent future legislation, as to county boundaries and county seats.

The Wabash and Erie Canal has been prosecuted with spirited exertions, during the past year; its speedy completion and permanent usefulness is regarded as no longer problematical.

GENERAL HARRISON.

Our distinguished fellow-citizen General Harrison has been announced at Harrisburgh, in Pennsylvania, as a suitable candidate for the Presidency, and we hesitate not to say that if the citizens of that state should compliment Ohio so far as to select this gentleman for the highest place in the nation we should be well pleased. No man has higher claims upon his countrymen than this veteran *Pioneer of the West*. He came to our forests a young soldier, under the triumphant banner of Wayne, and gallantly followed the footsteps of that successful warrior, through the fatigues and horrors of a long and bloody border war. He is one of the very few of that generous race, remaining among us, to connect the present with the departed generation. The descendant of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, he was reared in that pure school of patriotism, which gave a succession of virtuous and revered Presidents, to our nation; and his early services were performed in the companionship of revolutionary patriots and heroes. He has filled many civil offices with honor. He was Secretary of this Territory, and its first Delegate in Congress—Governor of Indiana, and Superintendent of Indian affairs—A Senator in Congress from Ohio—and Ambassador to Colombia; and in all these posts maintained an unsullied character. As a Major General in the war with Great Britain and Commander-in-Chief of a division of the army he rendered services, which were not surpassed by those of any of his distinguished contemporaries. The battle of Tippecanoe, the sortie from Fort Meigs, and the battle of the Thames, were all brilliant affairs, honorable to our armies, and marked by consummate skill on the part of the Commanding General; they will place the name of Harrison on a proud page of the history of our country. If Pennsylvania shall adopt him as her candidate, the west will rally around the *Old Pioneer*. There will be but one voice. The old men who served under his command, who have acted with him in times that tried men's souls, will give their suffrages with pleasure, to the grey headed companion of their trials; the young men will give the strength of their support, to the friend of their fathers. Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, will look back upon their old records, and find the name of Harrison upon pages black with the smoke of battle—they will turn out en masse for the old Governor. The sons of Kentucky followed him in battle, and he did justice to their courage, when he said, "they nobly supported the doubtful character of Americans and Kentuckians." Daviess and Shelby and Johnson, fought under his banner—the generous soldier will not forget *his old General*. If our friends across the mountains are willing to concede to the West the honor of giving another President of the United States, and if the name of Harrison shall be announced from the Keystones of the Federal arch, let the response of the west be given in one universal shout of assent. As a private gentleman, as a man of honesty and worth, as an ingenious, high-minded patriotic citizen, no individual stands higher among us than the patriarch of North Bend, and we doubt whether a name can be mentioned around which the voters would so cheerfully rally. It will be an auspicious day for our country, when the Pioneer of the Western Valley shall be the President of the United States. *Cincinnati Courier*.

National Debt. By reference to the late report of the Secretary of the Treasury, we learn with pleasure the important and gratifying fact, that the whole of our national debt, which at one time (1816) amounted to more than \$127,000,000, will be paid off on the first of January next. This immense sum has been paid off in the course of nineteen years, without the imposition of direct taxes, (except for a very short period.) Only nine years ago, our national debt was \$51,000,000; in 1816 the interest alone amounted to \$7,157,500 42; in 1829 to almost \$4,600,000. Since the beginning of that year, we have paid off, including interest, very nearly a hundred millions of dollars, over and above our current expenses. *Cincinnati Courier*.

Dr. Kemp, Professor of Mathematics in Columbia College, has decided the question which was referred to him respecting the commencement of the nineteenth century. It was whether, the nineteenth century commenced on the 1st of January 1800, or on the 1st of January 1801.—He has given his opinion that it commenced January 1st, 1800.

There is a difference between the 1834th and the year 1834. We are now in the 1835th year of the Christian era, but in the year 1834.—On the last day of the present month 1835 years will have been completed. A man who is 30 years old begins to be in his 31st year, but considering his birth an era, he is in the year 30, until he is 31.

Two young folks were lately married at Cheltenham, perfectly blind, and the bridesmaid, who led them, partially so. Love is certainly blind in this case, at all events.

SENTENCE OF THE SPANISH PIRATES.

U. S. District Court, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1834.

The Court met at 10 o'clock this morning, when Judge Story delivered an opinion, at great length, against the power of the Circuit Court to grant a new trial, in a capital case; Judge S. considered such a power expressly denied by the clause in one of the amendments to the Constitution, declaring, that no person shall, for the same offence, be put twice in jeopardy of life or limb, which is but a recognition of the long established principle of the common law, that no man's life shall be more than once put in jeopardy for the same offence—a maxim embedded in the very elements of the common law.

His honor was of opinion, that if the power existed at all, it must apply as well to trials in which the parties were acquitted, as in which parties were convicted. The motion for a new trial was accordingly overruled, as was also the motion in arrest of judgment, the several specifications in support of which were examined and pronounced insufficient. Judge Davis having delivered a short opinion, agreeing with Judge Story's, *Andrew Dunlap*, Esq., the District Attorney arose and made the following motion for the delivery of the judgment:

May it please your Honors. Pedro Gibert, Bernardo de Soto, Francisco Ruiz, Manuel Boyga, Manuel Castillo, Angel Garcia, and Juan Montenegro, otherwise called Jose Bazilio de Castro—be, and they are hereby severally deemed, taken and adjudged to be pirates and felons; and that they and each of them be hanged by the neck, until they are severally dead. And the Marshal of this District of Massachusetts, or his deputy, do, on peril of what may befall thereon, cause execution to be done in the premises aforesaid, upon them, and each of them severally, on the eleventh day of March next ensuing, between the hours of nine o'clock, in the forenoon, and twelve o'clock, at noon of the same day, and that they, the said Pedro Gibert, &c, be now taken from hence to the gaol in Boston in the district aforesaid, from whence they came, there, or in some other safe and convenient gaol within the district aforesaid, they and each of them to be closely kept until the day of execution, and from thence they and each of them to be taken on the day appointed for execution as aforesaid, to the place there to be hanged as aforesaid, until they are severally dead. And it is further ordered by the Court, that the Clerk of the Court do issue a warrant in due form of law to the Marshal of this district, or his deputy, to carry judgment into full effect.

I earnestly recommend to each of you to employ the intermediate period in sober reflections upon your past life and conduct, and by prayers and penitence, religious exercises, to seek the favor and forgiveness of Almighty God, for any sins and crimes which you may have committed; and for this purpose, I earnestly recommend to you and each of you, to seek the aid and assistance of the ministers of our holy religion, of the denomination to which you severally belong. And in bidding you, so far as I can presume to know, an affectionate farewell, I offer up my earnest prayers, that Almighty God may in his infinite goodness have mercy on your souls.

The distant period appointed for the execution of the prisoners, was assigned by Judge Story, in order to enable them to procure evidence from Havana and England, favorable to their case, if any in fact exists, to be laid before the President of the United States, with whom alone rests the power to stay further proceedings. *Boston Statesman*.

he did not make the declaration he should be shot. Perez is a base and wicked villain, and an enemy to the Spaniards.

Angel Garcia made a statement very similar to Castillo's, and called Capt. Trotter a villain and seducer and avers that he seduced Perez.

Juan Montenegro also handed in a similar statement, with equally solemn asseverations of innocence.

The reading of the written statements was concluded about 5 o'clock, when the following sentence, translated to the prisoners, by Mr. Badlam, was pronounced by

Story, J.—Pedro Gibert, Bernardo de Soto, Francisco Ruiz, Manuel Boyga, Manuel Castillo, Angel Garcia, and Juan Montenegro—prisoners at the bar—the motion made by your counsel for a new trial, and in arrest of judgment, having been overruled by the court, and all other matters being disposed of, it is now my painful duty to pronounce the sentence of the law upon each of you, for the crime whereof you severally stand convicted. I shall do this in as brief terms as possible, being conscious of the difficulty of addressing you through the medium of an interpreter.

It is considered by the Court, that the said Pedro Gibert, Bernardo de Soto, Francisco Ruiz, Manuel Boyga, Manuel Castillo, Angel Garcia, and Juan Montenegro, otherwise called Jose Bazilio de Castro—be, and they are hereby severally deemed, taken and adjudged to be pirates and felons;

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Legislative.

The Senate did not sit yesterday till 2 o'clock, there not being a quorum in the morning. Among the petitions presented in the Senate was one praying a divorce—among the resolutions presented was one directing an inquiry into the expediency of passing a law providing for the protection of the bridges along the Cumberland Road—and among the bills introduced was one providing for a codification of the laws, and appointing the Judges of the Supreme Court to perform that duty.

Mr. AKERS, the Senator from Randolph, Delaware, and Grant obtained leave of absence, in consequence of sickness, during the remainder of the session.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, a quorum appeared at nine o'clock. Among the proceedings we briefly note the following:

A report was received from the Leavenworth and Bloomington Rail Road Company, setting forth the practicability and importance of that contemplated rail road, which was referred to the committee on canals and internal improvements.

Among the petitions presented were, several from citizens of Dearborn county, praying a change in the location of the county seat of that county—several praying for the granting of divorces—some others praying the location of state roads—one from the citizens of Hamilton county praying the construction of a canal along the Valley of White river—one from the St. Josephs Iron Company, and another from sundry citizens of St. Joseph's county praying authority to construct a bridge and a lock over St. Joseph river, &c. &c.—all of which were read and appropriately referred.

The memorial and joint resolution, praying a grant of land to aid in the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal was reported with an amendment, which was concurred in, and the memorial and joint resolution was then read a third time and passed. A bill granting relief to Nathan Harlan of Marion county, and a bill to exempt the members of the Rising Sun Fire Company from performing military duty, were reported, read a third time and passed. A bill was reported attaching certain territory to the county of Lagrange, which was twice read and laid on the table, and a report against the expediency of changing the location of the county seat of Lagrange was also laid on the table. A memorial and joint resolution, instructing our Senators and requesting our Representatives to use their exertions to procure the ratification of the late treaty with the Miami tribe of Indians, was reported, twice read, and referred to a select committee. It was afterwards reported back by the select committee with an amendment, which was concurred in; and the question being then on its engrossment for a third reading, an animated debate took place as to the propriety of its adoption after which and after unsuccessful motions to amend, and to lay it on the table, the question was taken and was determined in the negative—yeas 29, nays 39.

Mr. Carter of Orange, in consequence of sickness, obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session. *Ind. Journal, Dec. 29.*

Closer among Corn. A friend of mine sowed red clover among his corn after going through with the cultivator the last time; the seed was protected from the heat of the sun by the corn; it consequently vegetated very soon, and after the corn was cut off, there was a luxuriant growth of clover, which afforded fine pasture for several successive seasons. The red clover is an excellent manure. I have raised a fine crop of wheat by plowing in the second growth after harvest. *American Far.*

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 19, 1834.

S. W. PARKER, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Not much business of importance has as yet been brought before the Legislature. There is very little, if any, doubt but that the *ad valorem* system of taxation will be adopted, during the present session. The Canal Commissioners have not as yet reported the subject of the White water Canal, nor is it probable they will until the 1st of January. It is apprehended that the want of a report at an early period, will operate against the work. However, there seems to be a much more liberal opinion in regard to Internal Improvement, than formerly. If the desire to accommodate every neighborhood does not too strongly prevail, we may expect the State to embark in a general scheme of internal communication by Canals and Railways. As yet the signs of the times are favorable for the citizens of White Water. If the report of the Commissioners be as favorable as is now anticipated, and comes in due time, but little doubt remains of an appropriation for that work, the present session.—The survey of a Canal route, connecting the Wabash Canal with White River, and thence down said river, is also among the projected works that will probably go into effect, the present session. Happily for the People, party politics have lost their charm in the Legislature. Acts of legislation for the good of the State, seem to be the all absorbing topics.

Yours, &c.

We sincerely hope that the anticipations of our correspondent may be realized. We understand that a project has been broached for an extended scheme of State improvement of this kind. To protect the Wabash and Erie Canal down through Lafayette—past the mouth of White River to the mouth of the Wabash. Then canal the valley of White river from its mouth, up through the centre of the State, by Indianapolis to Munceycity. Canal the White Water Valley from Lawrenceburg to the National Road—then construct a Railroad from that point to touch the White River Canal at Munceycity and pass on to the Wabash and Erie Canal at Fort Wayne. There is very little doubt entertained of the entire feasibility of such a scheme of improvement as this. Its cost would be great, but its value to the State would pass calculation. And the strength which is directly interested in this project is much more than sufficient, if once amicably concentrated, to carry it into speedy and complete execution. Where is the objection to it? Why may not all hands combine and make a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether?

Editor Watchman.

The *Seasons*. A late western paper has the following notice of the peculiarities which have marked the seasons of the present year. The description will answer very well for the region of the Middle States:

"We have never known a season in our life that was not the most remarkable that was ever seen and felt. It is either the hottest, or coldest, or driest, or wettest, or earliest, or latest, or rainiest, or snowiest, or fruitliest, or barrenest, that was ever heard of. But of all the most remarkable years we remember, we think the present the most remarkably remarkable."

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