

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

LETTER FROM MR. VAN BUREN
To A. Stevenson and others, (officers of the Baltimore convention,) accepting the nomination for the presidency.

Washington, May 29, 1835.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant. The nomination you have been deputed to announce to me presents the only contingency, upon the occurrence of which, I could consent to become a candidate for the high office of President of the United States. When my name was first associated with the question of General Jackson's successor, more through the ill will of opponents than the partiality of friends, I determined to wait for the development of the views of the Republicans of the Union, and to pursue that course only which their unbiased judgment should finally recommend. I deemed that course to be due to the Administration, of which I was a member—to the best interests of the country—and to the indissolubility of a political party, by the original organization of which, the overthrow of Republican principles in the United States was prevented, and upon the ascendancy of which we can alone depend for their preservation.

To the offers of support which were at that period occasionally made to me from different quarters of the Union, I respectfully replied, that the public good, in my opinion, required the services of Gen. Jackson for a second term—that the agitation of the question of his successor, at that early period, must of necessity embarrass the administration—and that it was my desire that my name should not be connected with the subject. From that time to the present, I have neither solicited the aid nor sought the support of any man in reference to the high office for which I have been nominated; unless my replies to interrogatories from my fellow citizens upon public questions, and my sincere endeavors to make myself worthy of the respect and confidence of the American People, are liable to that construction. For the truth of this declaration, I can safely appeal to the hundreds of honorable men who composed the recent Convention—to the numerous editors, and politicians throughout the Union, who have distinguished me by their preference, and to my private correspondents and intimate friends, not excepting the considerable number of persons, once my friends and associates, whom the fluctuations of political life have converted into opponents. In none of these classes, or in any other of our community, is there a man who can truly say, that I have solicited his political support, or that I have entered or sought to enter with him into any arrangement, to bring about the nomination which I have now received, or to secure my elevation to the Chief Magistracy of my country.

The liberal men of all parties, I trust, and you and those you represent, I am sure, will pardon me for having thus spoken of my own conduct in reference to a point upon which I have been the silent object of attack, as causeless as it has been violent and unmerited; especially, as I alone can answer for it in relation to all my countrymen, although thousands may be ready to answer in relation to themselves.

Under these circumstances, the Democracy of the nation, in Convention assembled, having, as you inform me, with a degree of unanimity that I cannot too highly appreciate, pronounced me worthy of so great a trust, I cannot hesitate in making their wishes the rule of my conduct. I do, therefore, with a deep, and, I hope, abiding sense of the honor conferred upon me by their preference, accept the nomination which has been tendered to me by the Convention.

I am not aware that there is any point of interest in the general policy of the Federal Government, in respect to which, my opinions have not been made known by my official acts—by my own public avowals, and by the authorized explanations of my friends. If there be any such, however, you may rest assured of my ready disposition to comply, on all suitable occasions, with the wishes of my fellow citizens in this regard. I content myself, on this occasion, with saying, that I consider myself the honored instrument, selected by the friends of the present administration, to carry out its principles and policy; and that, as well from inclination as from duty, I shall, if honored with the choice of the American People, endeavor to tread generally in the footsteps of President Jackson—happy, if I shall be able to perfect the work which he has so gloriously begun.

It cannot be denied, that there is no country in the world, whose inhabitants are so well secured in their civil and religious rights, and enjoy so large a share of prosperity and happiness, as the people of the United States. For this, they are indebted less to salubrity of climate and fertility of soil, than to our excellent system of Government; by which, more than any other, every man is protected in the application of his powers and faculties to his own benefit. That dissatisfaction should nevertheless occasionally arise, even under the best administration, of a system capable of producing such happy results, is not to be wondered at. Until the wit of man shall be able to devise some plan of Representative Government, by which all who think themselves qualified, may be, at the same time, admitted to a participation in the administration of its affairs, we must not expect to be relieved from the spirit of complaint, or even surprised to find it most vehement at a period of the greatest prosperity. But between partisan complaints as to the management of our Government, or even diversities of opinion in relation to the wisdom of supposed improvements in the details of its construction, and a desire to undermine and overthrow it, there is an insuperable difference. Whilst the one can, at worst, but produce partial and temporary obstructions in the public service, success in the other, would inevitably plunge our country, from its present lofty eminence, into an abyss of anarchy and ruin.

We hold an immense stake for the weal or woe of mankind, to the importance of which we should not be insensitive. The intense interest manifested abroad in every movement here, that threatens the stability of our system, shows the deep conviction which pervades the world, that upon its fate depends the cause of Republican Government. The advocates of monarchical systems have not been slow in perceiving danger to such institutions in the permanency of our Constitution, nor backward in seizing upon every passing event by which their predictions of its speedy destruction could be in any degree justified. Thus far, they have been disappointed in their anticipations, and the circumstances by which they were encouraged, however alarming at the time, have in the end only tended to show forth the depth of that devotion to the Union, which is yet, thank God: the master passion of the American bosom.

It is the interest of the *farmer* therefore to encourage Internal Improvement, and no less so, the interest of the *merchant* and the *manufacturer*. The wealth, prosperity, happiness and importance of these, constitute the living pillars, upon which our government is based, and they should enjoy its privileges without contention. To these, then we say, in perfect sincerity, that your industry will be promoted, your commerce extended and your wants mutually supplied by a well regulated system of Internal Improvements.

French Relations. By a reference to the foreign intelligence received since our last, it will be seen that the difficulties attending the state of our relations with France are by no means yet surmounted or removed; and that there is much apparent danger, either that the adjustment will not be effected at all, or that the temporary misunderstanding will leave behind it a state of embittered and irritated feeling on either side, extremely unpropitious to the mutual interests of the two nations, and adverse to the preservation of that harmony which the remembrance of cherished associations and long continued amity and intercourse would seem naturally calculated to ensure. There is a soreness of feeling on the part of a great portion of the French people—an erroneous conviction that they have been outwitted by our negotiators or betrayed by their own Ministers—which will require to be treated with respect—if not deference—to be met with candor and truth, rather than misrepresentation and ridicule, in order to secure what we feel must be the hearty desire of the great mass of both nations—a mutually honorable, satisfactory and lasting peace.

If there be one circumstance which more than another should have excited the indignation and disgust of the reflecting portion of our countrymen, at home as well as abroad, it is the bullying, swaggering tone assumed by a portion—happily, a small portion—of the American press since the commencement of this unpleasant difference. Not only have they acted as though France were the very nation to be dragged or frightened into the performance of an act of national justice, but as though their own doughty display of spirit and resolution were peculiarly calculated to daunt and dishearten her. As if the language of insult and of impotent defiance were not rather calculated to rouse than to protract the spirit of the most abject and inferior foe—much less of a nation so eminent for its resources, its prowess, and its extreme sensitiveness in regard to the slightest impeachment of its honor, as is France. But now, when the money has been voted, and only fair words are needed to make fair weather, to indulge in intemperance, vituperation of our rival, or unmanly exultation over her, is a course worthy the lazzaroni of Naples or the rabble of Morocco. Nothing could more clearly betray an utter destitution of all true courage, as well as enlightened policy and a decent regard for the feelings of others.

That there exists, and will continue to exist, a difference of opinion with regard to the branch of our Government to which the credit of the suspicious result anticipated is more especially to be attributed—whether to the manly firmness of the President, the dignified and conciliatory moderation of the Senate, or the judicious mingling of the two which characterized the course of the House—is neither remarkable nor important. There is room here for every one to enjoy his own opinion. But when we see it emphatically and tauntingly boasted that we have frightened France into common honesty from the dread of our arms, we could only regard the boast as irresistibly ludicrous, were it not that it may prove incalculably mischievous. A nation which has shrunk not from the array of a million bayonets, and only succumbed when they were pointed at her throat, while the flower of her own sons lay in death on the soil which they had gallantly defended, is not likely to quail before the untried arm of a nation numerically one-third as potent as herself and separated by three thousand miles of ocean. Away, then, with such miserable oblation to our national vanity! To suspect another nation of a spirit so craven, a conduct so unprincipled, is well nigh to acknowledge ourselves capable of like depravity.

But we hear much of the impossible ‘apology,’ which is required of our Government before the money will be paid over. We have already exposed the absurdity of the request; but while we regard it as a matter of supererogation, we are not the less certain that a compliance with it will be alike feasible and productive of happy results. There is no ‘apology’ required: our Government is simply asked for an ‘explanation’ of certain expressions which have been deemed derogatory to the honor and good faith of France. The explanation, we humbly conceive, may be given in the very language of the document alluded to. At any rate, our advices from Washington assure us that the requisition is there deemed of no moment—or at least as presenting no insuperable difficulty. And who will presume that the President is inclined to disregard the dictates of national honor in this matter! The presumption has no semblance of possibility.—We conclude, then, in the full assurance that the explanation will be tendered and accepted, the cash ditto ditto; and that both parties will have quite as much national honor when the affair is happily settled as ever they had.

New Yorker.

Calamitous Fire. A most disastrous conflagration broke out about three o'clock on Monday morning in a stable in the upper part of Elizabeth-street, rear of 207, which in the course of a short time destroyed upwards of forty tenements, and unshod, it is estimated, nearly two hundred families, nor will this computation be considered as exaggerated when it is known that in one house, No. 226 Mott-street, not less than sixteen families resided. Nine houses fronting on Prince-street, and five on Elizabeth-street, are totally destroyed—exclusive of about that number of tenements situated in the rear of them.

The loss cannot be estimated with any degree of certainty; but the amount of insurance must be merely nominal, and the actual distress occasioned beyond computation.—Except for the clemency of the season, there never was a more urgent appeal to the sympathies of the affluent and philanthropic.

New Yorker.

We have a word of advice for those who are opposed to a system of internal improvements—Take a journey; go somewhere—the distance of one or two hundred miles—go immediately, before the mud dries up, or the waters fall; and after wallowing through the mud; swimming streams, and sympathizing with the enterprising emigrants, whose families are exposed to fatigue, disease and danger—when you get home, and count up the many carriages you have helped to pull out of the mud; and the persons you have aided in crossing streams, and rescued, or seen rescued from them, then ask if good roads and good bridges would not be very comfortable at best! If so, ask yourself if those states that have constructed such works are not in a way to be amply reimbursed for making them? and then ask yourself why you are opposed to adopting a similar policy in Indiana!

Plough Boy.

Another breach mended. Miss Mary A. Tubbs, of Troy, has recovered five hundred dollars of Mr. David Harris, for a breach of promise of marriage. It appeared from the evidence, that Mr. H. had visited Miss T. for about three years—during the latter part of which time he had become so intimate as to extend his visits from two to three o'clock in the afternoon to ten at night, and to address Miss T. as “Mary,” instead of “Miss Tubbs.”

Colonization in Mexico. Benjamin Lundy formerly editor of the *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, has obtained an extensive grant of land in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, in fee simple, on condition of introducing 250 settlers within a stipulated period.

Pennsylvania. After next year it is said, her canals and rail roads will pay for themselves, and all the taxes raised for them may be removed.

A FACT—worthy of notice. The stock of every finished Rail-road is, at this time above par.

THE ALLEGHENY ARSENAL.

Pennsylvania can boast of having within her territories one of the finest arsenals in the Union; probably for neatness and symmetrical arrangement the neatest in the world. I mean that military establishment recently named after the beautiful river ‘Allegheny,’ and more extensively known as the United States Arsenal near Pittsburgh. This ordnance depot occupies a plot of ground containing thirty one acres one rod and thirty three perches, and 132 feet from the river above mentioned, to the Philadelphia turnpike road, and entirely surrounded by a handsome, well built wall. The order in which the ground is divided is as follows:

1st. The lower park, comprising a military store, built of freestone, three stories high; two carriage houses and three timber sheds with brick pilasters—a river wall of massive stone, containing 1720 perches.

2d. The Arsenal yard, a square with the following buildings: The main arsenal of arms, three stories, with a pediment or tower 120 feet by 40; upon the second floor the arms are arranged in racks and present to the ‘coup d'oeil militaire’ a splendid sight; it is in fact a military museum. Here are deposited the relics of former times; revolutionary trophies, taken at Saratoga, Yorktown, and St. John, present themselves at the entrance and remind the visitor of Washington, Lafayette, Gates, and other worthies of past days. At the end of the room may be seen with the marks of U. S. Philadelphia, 1793, an intimate friend of ‘old Mad Anthony,’ and a most destructive enemy to the aborigines. The total number of small arms falls not short of seventy seven thousand. The other buildings are—Officers’ quarters, barracks, armory, smithy, carriage shop, machine shop, with an engine of twelve horse power, paint shops, lead and brass foundries, tin shop, account-removal shop, and offices. The last named buildings are of brick, with shingle roofs. The yard, with its gravel pathways and locust trees, is not unlike the garden of the Tuilleries in miniature. In the centre is a cistern or reservoir, intended for the fire engine, to convey water to any part of the fabric.

3d. The front park presents in view the outside of the main arsenal, with the right and left wings of the commandant’s and subalterns’ quarters, and is chiefly designed, as a grove, to add to the ‘tout ensemble.’ This park is enclosed with iron railings similar to those around or in front of the President’s House, at Washington. After crossing the Butler road, it leads us forth into the upper park, surrounded, likewise with a permanent wall of stone. In its inclosure are the public stables, (of brick;) three small frame buildings, separated about 50 yards from each other, denominated as the composition, drawing, and preparation rooms, are seen in the rear. About two hundred yards in the rear of these buildings is the magazine of powder, designed to contain (environs) one thousand three hundred barrels. The topographical scenery is not surpassed by any west of the Allegheny mountains, and the climate is salubrious and fruitful.

The Allegheny Arsenal was commenced in 1814. The site selected and the greater part of the works erected by Majors Woolly and Wade, late of the army. The remainder of the improvements, filling up an extensive ravine, building timber sheds, erecting walls, &c., were finished under the superintendence of the senior captain of the present ordnance corps.

There are at present stationed at this post one Brevet Major, two Lieutenants, one store keeper, thirty five enlisted ordnance men, and fourteen citizens employed as mechanics. As an arsenal of construction and of the first class, the situation of the country offers every facility, both as regards the commodities and the mechanical operations; and there is not probably a site which would present more favorable results as an ordnance depot, than the one so judiciously selected by the gentlemen whose names are above quoted.

Military & Naval Magazine, for May, 1835.

There has been considerable excitement in Philadelphia for some time past, caused by a pretty general turnout of the laborers and journeymen mechanics, in favor of fixing ten hours as a day’s labor. The proposition, we believe, is, to commence at 6 o'clock, and work till 8, then have one hour for breakfast—commence at nine and work till one, then have an hour for dinner, and quit at 6. These to be the hours from the 1st of May till the first of September—and for the remainder of the year, from sunrise to sunset, with one hour each for breakfast and dinner.—The corporation officers of the City and some of the adjoining Districts have already agreed to the measure, and, so far as we can judge, there appears to be no doubt that it will become general. We think it highly probable that an industrious man will perform more labor in the course of a week under the ten hour system, than is now usual by working 12 or 14 hours a day.

Rep. Compiler.

New Albany, June 19. Last Sunday evening, we witnessed one of the most extraordinary Phenomena of nature. About 6 o'clock P. M. a dark and dismal cloud settled in the horizon, south east of this place, between us and which, a whirlwind, or water spout formed resembling a light stripe upon a dark surface. We never have witnessed a spectacle so truly sublime. Having formed below Jeffersonville it proceeded with great rapidity through that place, doing considerable injury to several persons whom it either swept along in its course or dashed to the earth. Several houses also were materially damaged by it.—It passed on through the town to the river. When it came in contact with the water, it received an immense body of that element into its tremendous whirl, and conveyed it into the heavens.—The volume of water passing upwards was at times some 25 or 30 feet in circumference and extended upwards some hundreds of feet—Having passed over to the Kentucky side of the river and sported there awhile, it returned to the water, soon after which it dispersed or subsided. The time of its duration was something like 5 or 7 minutes.

Gazette.

Melancholy Accident.—We learn from a gentleman who was on the ground a short time after the accident, that a man by the name of Ira Smith was instantly killed by the fall of a tree on Saturday last (13th instant) in Amherst. The particulars of the sad event as near as we can learn were as follows. He with others, was at work during the forenoon digging the earth from the roots of a large dead tree, in the highway. After having removed the earth, they left the tree standing; and when returning after dinner, just as he came within reach of the tree, it fell, crushing the miserable man in a most shocking manner. He removed to this country from Vermont last year, and has left a large family to deplore his death.

Ohio Atlas.

Pittsburg, Penn., the American Birmingham, contains 33,000 inhabitants, and 400 new houses are being erected there this year.

Novel appearance of Frogs.—We have lately observed an innumerable host of these tiny creatures leaping their way instinctively from the low grounds towards the hills, all going the same course, and so thronged that one could not step without destroying one or more of them. Their appearance in such numbers has excited some surprise, as the like was never seen here before. It seems that this is the season of the year when the tadpole assumes the shape of a quadruped, by being supplied with legs, and immediately thereafter relinquishes its tail, when its fondness for an aquatic abode appears to cease. At this time they are not much larger than a common house fly, and so intent are they on making to the hills, that whenever an obstruction presents itself, they are found clustered about it in heaps, and nothing can induce them to change their course.

The frog is perhaps the most prolific of all quadrupeds;—naturalists have ascertained that the female will produce at a single spawning eleven hundred eggs; were it not for the great fondness that many other animals have for them as food, and the consequent destruction they occasion, we might expect to be cheated most meliously by the ‘cantankerous’* creatures.

Manchester Miss. Adr.

* We are indebted to Fanny Kemble for this word.

Colonel Richard M. Johnson. This exemplary Christian, distinguished statesman, warrior, and philanthropist, after thirty years’ uninterrupted service of his country, in the field of battle and in the Halls of Congress, is now brought forward with great unanimity by the democratic party of the United States, as their candidate for the Vice Presidency. And who is Richard M. Johnson?—a planter of Kentucky, a civilian, and soldier. What has he done?—In early life, yielding to the great laws of nature, which his been his guide and trust through life, and finding that “God made of one flesh all the nations of the earth,” he took a *Creole* for a wife. He is now a widower, having lived in honest wedlock with the woman of his choice, and raised and educated a family of children, the heirs of his estate, intelligent and respectable, but slightly tinged with their African origin. So much for his domestic relations.

Eastern Republican.

Catholics.—A new, splendid chapel is about to be built in Cincinnati, by this sect of *professors*. They are becoming quite numerous,—gaining strength daily and will in a few years be able to cope with the other *professing* Christians in the country. We are informed that a neat little church has recently been built, by them, in Dearborn county.

The *professing* Christians, all over the United States, appear to be in much trouble; splitting and dividing into numerous little bands, for the most trifling causes. Some quarreling about their funds—the preachers about their stipend, and the members about their worldly affairs; each trying to over-reach the other.

Weekly Messenger.

MADISON, June 18. *Cholera.* It becomes our painful duty to announce the existence and progress of the Cholera in Madison. It made its appearance on Wednesday last, when Mr. and Mrs. Meek, two of our oldest citizens, were attacked; they died on Thursday. On Friday, Mrs. —— Black was attacked, and died on Sunday. On Saturday, John Casten, and Mrs. Black. On Tuesday, up to seven o'clock Wednesday morning, Mrs. (Wm.) White, Archibald Causty and daughter, Samuel Wells, Mrs. Richards, Miss Shannon, James H. Wallace, two children of John Coffinian, Wm. Smith, Jas. W. Guthrie, Mrs. Gavit, Mrs. Bergen and son, a girl at J. G. Moore's, name unknown, making the number who have died since its first appearance, nineteen.

Since writing the above, we have heard of two deaths, Mrs. (Sam'l.) Wells, and a child of Mrs. Barnum. There are now (Thursday morning) but one or two cases which, it is feared will terminate fatally.

Banner.

Fire. About 3 o'clock on Friday morning last, 19th inst. during a severe thunder storm, the citizens of this town were aroused by the cry of fire, which was found to proceed from a stable belonging to Mr. John Jamison. The stable was struck by the lightning which, immediately took fire, and was entirely consumed, together with a considerable portion of grain; fortunately there were no horses in the stable at the time. Through the praiseworthy exertions of a portion of our citizens, and particularly the Young men, the fire was arrested without doing further damage.

Batavia Ohio Sun.

A pretty severe hail storm occurred in this county on Saturday last (13th inst.). In the northern part of the county it did considerable damage. The young corn was greatly injured and some fields of small grain nearly, if not quite destroyed. The destruction of windows was great. A gentleman informs us that in his house he had windows of 15 lights in which every pane of glass was broken. He saw hail stones nearly as large as hen’s eggs.

Connersville Watchman.