

For the Palladium.  
MARTIN VAN BUREN.

No. II.

The rivalry to which we have alluded, continued more than ten years; yet notwithstanding the duration, and fierceness of their political collisions, their professional business was conducted in a spirit of unbounded liberality and chivalric confidence. Each has ever since borne ample testimony to the generosity and good faith with which he was treated by his adversary.

In the meantime, Mr. Van Buren and his distinguished rival were called to the higher courts. There he encountered the first talents in the State; and with such success, that on the republicans regaining their ascendancy, he was appointed, in February, 1815, attorney general of the State, in the room of Abraham Van Vechten, then equally eminent for political sagacity and professional reputation. The duties of this office, and the extension of his practice, induced him, in the following year, to change his residence from Hudson to Albany. From this time until his retirement, he was deservedly ranked among those luminaries of the profession, to whom in connexion with the judiciary, the State owes so large a portion of her prosperity and renown.

The public life and services of Martin Van Buren, demand a fuller notice than that bestowed on his professional career. His first connexion with political affairs, was in the great contest which preceded the civil revolution of 1801. His father, a *Whig* of the *Revolution* and an anti-federalist in 1788, was among the earliest supporters of Mr. Jefferson. Martin, then a law student at Kinderhook, espoused with great warmth the same principles; but his course was emphatically his own. It was the result of a decided conviction, that the conduct and doctrines of the men in power, were not only subversive of the rights of the people, but fast tending to the establishment of an aristocratical government. The strength and integrity of these convictions were severely tested. The gentleman in whose office he was a student, was a high-toned federalist; so was a near and much loved relative, his earliest patron. A majority of the inhabitants, including nearly all the wealthy families, and most of his youthful associates also belonged to the federal party, and that party then had the ascendancy, not only in his own town, but in the county, the State, and the Union. Aware of his superior endowments, and anxious to save him from what was deemed by many of his friends a fatal if not a criminal heresy, great exertions were made to attach him to the dominant party. Every motive which could operate on the mind of an ardent and ambitious young man, was held out to him, but without success. He persisted in maintaining the principles he had espoused, and he spared no pains to inculcate them upon others, especially by animated addresses at the meetings of the people. His devotion thus early to the cause of the people, though it exposed him to the implacable hostility of the federalists, secured to him the confidence and affections of the democracy of the town, and soon made him so conspicuous in his county, that in 1800, when only in his eighteenth year, he was one of her representatives in a republican convention composed of delegates from the counties of Rensselaer and Columbia, and held for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the house of representatives. On that occasion, he assisted the veteran politicians, with whom he was associated in preparing an address to the electors. During the residue of his minority he was in the habit of representing the republicans of his town in the county conventions, and of taking an active and efficient part in the political contests of the day as any of his seniors.

His first appearance as an elector, was in the spring of 1804, when, in common with the great mass of the party in which he had been educated, he supported Morgan Lewis for Governor of New York in opposition to Aaron Burr. Here again his integrity and independence were strikingly exemplified. Mr. Van Ness, with whom he had recently been a student, was the intimate friend of Col. Burr; and Mr. Van Buren himself, whilst in the city of New York, had received many flattering attentions from that gentleman, then the idol of every circle in which he moved. Several of the leading republicans of Columbia county, including some of Mr. Van Buren's earliest friends, were among his warmest supporters. Yet he took a decided stand against Col. Burr, on the ground that he was the candidate of the party opposed to Mr. Jefferson, and to the democracy of the State. His course on this occasion subjected him to some temporary antipathies; but its wisdom and propriety were sanctioned by the judgment of the people; and at the present day will hardly be called in question.

In 1807 the democratic party were divided between Lewis and Thompson, and Mr. Van Buren was amongst the decided supporters of the latter. In 1808 he was appointed surrogate of the county, an office which he held until February, 1813; when the federal party, having gained the ascendancy in that branch of the legislature which controlled the appointing power, he was promptly removed. Lawrenceburgh, 1835.

A meeting has been held in Cincinnati to consider the propriety of constructing a Rail Road from that city to Springfield, in Clark County, up the Little Miami Valley. This will be a continuation of the Mad river and Lake Erie Rail Road. And it is suggested as one of the objects to meet the proposed Southern rail-road, from Charlestow, S. C. to Cincinnati thus connecting the Northern frontier with the Atlantic coast.

The people of the Whitewater Valley are making great efforts to open a communication from Lawrenceburgh up the valley of this river by means of a canal and rail road. West. Telegraph.

The Democratic Republican majority in the next legislature will not be less than 20 on joint ballot. The Harrison fever has put the whigs completely on their backs. The Whigs begin to think of trying a new name. The whig presses throughout the State and country are beginning to prepare for a new candidate. One says it is authorized to say that Harrison and White won't be candidates;—another says the whigs will unite on some one and that if that one should be Webster or Clay all the others will be withdrawn.

It is plain to us that either the friends of White or Harrison must be disappointed. We think most clearly both. Harrison will not run unless he can get the whole whig vote. White will not unless he can be assured that he will be the sole opposing candidate to Van Buren. This he cannot be. The most probable result, in our view, will be the holding of a Congressional caucus at the meeting of the next Session and the nomination of Mr. Clay as the compromise candidate.

Western (Ohio) Telegraph.

THE PRESIDENCY.—The Washington Telegraph says, as authorized, that "Gen. Harrison will cheerfully surrender his own pretensions in favor of a more stronger candidate. We have no doubt that Judge White will evince equal disinterestedness."

Well this is as it should be. Mr. Van Buren is a stronger man than either Gen. Harrison or Judge White; they will of course, both surrender their pretensions to him—if not cheerfully, then by the decision of the nation.

Detroit Free Press.

The black legs of Lexington, Ky. are in trouble. It is found that no Judge Law can come up with them as effectually as Judge Lynch. Several have been sentenced to six months confinement in the work-house, where they will be employed in breaking up stones for macadamized roads.

#### From the Pennsylvania.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Some of the whig papers hereabouts are already squabbling as to the individual from their ranks, to whom the Presidential vote of Pennsylvania shall be given, Webster, Harrison or Clay. Having by means of an anti-masonic alliance and a division on a local question, in the ranks of their opponents, gained a temporary triumph upon half the matter at issue, they are highly elated with their first victory, and talk of electoral votes as if 1835 were 1836. They doubtless find it a very pleasant delusion; and imagine themselves the "settler up and puller down" of Presidents, as Warwick was of Kings; while in delicious day-dreams they distribute national honors, and recall the times of the elder Adams; for the younger he of that name no longer finds favor in their eyes.

The whig delights, however, are mere phantasms. Pennsylvania is sound to the core on the Presidential question. The names of Van Buren and Johnson are graven on the hearts of her people, and as she sustained Andrew Jackson against all comers, so will she carry the nominees of the National Convention triumphantly through every species of opposition. This paper, we believe, was the first in Pennsylvania to declare itself in favor of Martin Van Buren for the Presidency, and now every democratic print in the State, whether it has been for Muhlenburg or Wolf, is enlisted in the same cause. Such are the prospects for 1836. Even if there were less unanimity in our ranks upon this subject, the want of fixed principles on the part of the opposition, and their hesitating policy, their vacillation from one man to another; now bringing forward a recreant democrat, and again a blue light federalist, and showing a new front for every week, ensure their certain defeat not only here but everywhere.

Before talking of the electoral vote of Pennsylvania, let them find a candidate to compete for it with Mr. Van Buren. Set your man to stand the scrutiny which he must undergo, or cease to delude the opposition in other States with the idle hope that any thing can be effected in this. As this cannot be done, the universal whig party may cease troubling themselves about Pennsylvania, and the Presidential question. The people have already made up their minds upon the subject, and if called upon would vote to day precisely as they will vote a year hence, for Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson.

Mysterious Affair. We received yesterday evening, in a slip from the New Castle Gazette, the following account of an inquest held in that place over three dead bodies:

We were called upon as a juror, yesterday to examine the dead bodies of three negroes found packed in tierces, similar in make and size to those used for packing fine New Orleans sugar. It appears they were forwarded from Baltimore to Philadelphia by the Union Line Company and labelled, "H. G. Francis." They were put on shore at this place on account of the disagreeable odour that came from them while lying on board of the steamboat—and upon a suggestion being made that they contained human flesh, one of the tierces was opened which was occupied by two female negroes packed face to face—the casks were accordingly removed from the wharf to the public burying ground, and there opened and an inquest of twelve men called to examine the bodies—who returned a verdict that "the said persons came to their death by means unknown to this jury."

The decomposed state in which the bodies were found prevented a thorough examination of the same—the necks of the two females appeared to have been dislocated and the nose of one broken, together with the eyes nearly forced from their sockets—whether this was done previous to their death, or caused by forcing them into the tierces is uncertain.

—The man was in a better condition than the women, rather above the middling size, stout built, very dark, and we should judge near thirty years old—there was a piece of blue cloth tied round his large right toe, which may have been placed there by the persons concerned, for a particular purpose. One of the females was nearly white, the other a bright yellow—a plain brass ring was found on one of the first mentioned right hand fingers—they were all without any covering, and packed in straw and corn blades. After the examination was over they were buried in one grave, together with the tierces that contained them.

Various conjectures have naturally arisen as to the probable manner in which these persons were deprived of life, and the uses for which they were intended,—our opinion is, however, that they died natural deaths, and were intended as subjects for dissection—although that belief is somewhat staggered when we consider the particular season of the year, and the fact that neither of the medical colleges of Philadelphia, have, as yet, commenced their regular course of lectures.

We are well aware that the Faculty must have articles of this description to examine for the purpose of benefiting the living, but we must say that the forwarding of subjects at this season of the year, through a line intended principally for carrying passengers, deserves the strictest censure, and should the authors be discovered, a severe punishment, (if possible,) should be inflicted, as a caution to future dealers in this new article of southern transportation.

\* This name is fictitious, without doubt, and was written upon a card, and mailed on the head of each tierce.

Texas.—The Mexicans appear resolved to keep the Texans with their hands full. Not only have large bodies of troops been sent to that state; but Mexican agents have excited the neighboring Indians to attack the American colonists. The Comanches and Cherokees have already made several incursions; so that ex-governor Huston and other gentlemen have been obliged to write to Washington to entreat the interference of the national government.

Americans to the rescue! Remember the condition of our revolutionary ancestors, when the Indians were excited against them: shall we suffer our colonial friends to be massacred by Mexicans, and have them driven from the colonies which they have honorably purchased and laboriously improved?

New-Orleans Bee.

A fatal Duel.—The following is an extract of a letter from an officer on board the U. S. ship Delaware. It is dated Palermo, August 11th:—"We have just anchored here. We left Malta on the 2d, in the company of the English fleet; they left us last evening. On the 7th, at Gergent, an unfortunate affair occurred between two of our gallant officers, one of whom was mortally wounded in the breast, and died in twenty-four hours; the latter is recovering. We have not heard a word of the Constitution—we look for her daily. We are all well and in high spirits, with the hope of soon steering homeward.—We expect to be at New-York in November.

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#### PRAIRES OF WEST MISSISSIPPI.

##### THEORY OF THEIR FORMATION.

In relation to those areas, which have received the appellation of prairies, from their surfaces, denuded of timber, beng at certain seasons covered with long grass, I am not of the opinion of those who think that all prairies have originally been produced by firing the timber annually, and thus, by repeated combustions, destroying the timber as well as the sprouts. That much ground has been denuded by such means, I would admit, and the cause certainly would appear a sufficient one for those prairie districts, to which no other cause apparently could be assigned. By whatever method plants begin first to germinate in such deposits, it is evident, as I have before stated, that where the vegetable matter is thin, and the season unfavorable, they are liable to perish; and where they would not altogether perish, it must be remembered, that this country was stockaded, as the more distant prairies still are, with buffalo, which would, by their periodical occupation of the country in numberless herds, assist in exterminating plants of a vigorless constitution. These may be enumerated amongst the efficient causes of a prairie or meadow state of extensive tracts of country. This view of the subject is some what strengthened by the fact of plants, in modern times, encroaching on the prairies; for I have observed they encroach on the sides where vegetable matter has been washed and accumulated, finding a nutritious bed there into which they can push their innumerable delicate fibres, secured from the devastating teeth and hoofs of the buffalo, which have now all left this part of the country; for where man settles, that animal never remains long. But there is also another view of the subject.

These vast prairies of the west, as well as the diminutive ones in question, must be admitted to be ancient floors of the ocean.—When it abandoned them, they were of course, without plants, and unless we admit their spontaneous growth, we must suppose them to have germinated from seeds derived from plants growing on lands which had been left with a higher level than the ocean, before it receded from these prairies.

Their borders would, of course, be planted first, and thus we can conceive

of every new generation of plants giving some of its seeds to the winds and the waters, and gradually extending the forests, like the present members of the human family, advancing upon and settling the country for the uses of posterity. This seems a more natural and just method of accounting for the immense prairies of the west, and the pampas of the southern portion of the South American continent, than conjectural opinions founded on a convenient method adopted by the Indians in securing their game, and which they have practised at all times, certainly with the effect of thinning, but without destroying the timber, as we know from the immense forests of Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri and Arkansas, which were once annually fired by the Indians, to burn the high grass, that they might better see their game—a practice which destroyed the undergrowth but only thinned the trees; and now that the Indians have left these countries, we find the undergrowth rapidly occupying the ground again. Before we receive opinions altogether hypothetical in relation to the cause of the prairie condition of land, it seems as if we were bound to enquire what was their first condition, consistent with the geological fact that they are ancient floors of the ocean. It, therefore, appears to me to be probable that many of these prairies have never since the ocean left them, been covered by any vegetable of greater importance than the gramma. Under this view of the matter, it is consistent to suppose, what is personally known to me to be the fact in many observed instances, that trees and plants may be transplanted to those prairies with perfect success.

#### Featherstonhaugh's Gcol. Report.

FRUIT. Why are some fruits improved in sweetness by drying or half withering on the trees?

Because their watery parts thus exhale, and the sugar is virtually increased in quantity.

Why should grapes hang on the vine until they are perfectly ripe?

Because unripe bunches never get any ripe after they are gathered.

Why should grapes be eaten soon after they are gathered?

Because, unlike other fruits, grapes do not improve in flavor after gathering.

Why should the crowns be removed from ripe pine-apples?

Because, when suffered to remain, they live upon the fruit till they have sucked out all the goodness.

Why does an apple, when cut first, appear white and after a time brownish?

Because a fermentation arises from the rest of the fruit absorbing the oxygen of the atmosphere; the apple having previously been, by its tough skin, protected from the contact of air. *Donovan.*

Why are certain apples called russetings?

Because of their russet or reddish brown color.

Why are chestnuts best preserved thro' winter in sand?

Because if there be any maggots in the chestnuts, they will come out, and work up through the sand to get air.

Why is fern preferable to straw for the bed between the layers of fruit?

Because it does not impart that musty flavor which is so often produced by the straw.

Why are the autumnal fruits, as plums, pears, &c., more crude and indigestible than those of summer?

Because, in part, of the state of the constitution. Thus, at the commencement of summer the system is more active and braced by the atmosphere of winter and spring, and by the dryer food which necessarily obliges us to take at those seasons: so that the cooling fruits of summer are wholesome from their opening the bowels, &c. But it is not wonderful that a continuance of watery and nutritious food like fruit, should, towards the autumn, produce debility in constitutions partly predisposed to it, by the continual and relaxing heat of the summer months.

#### Knowledge for the People.

Benefits of advertising. We are pleased to see,

an Editorial in this morning's Gazette, that our merchants, or some of them (and we doubt not all will soon see the utility of it) adopting this mode of making known what they have for sale.

If generally and uniformly adopted, it would double the amount of business done in this place in one year. We know of more than one instance of western merchants coming to this city to purchase dry goods, and after referring to the papers as all business men do in all places, and not seeing a single article of dry goods advertised, naturally concluded there were none here, and departed for the east immediately.

Cin. Eve. Post.

INTERESTING TO FARMERS. Short Wheat, a newly introduced kind of wheat spoken of with high commendation by a correspondent of the Farmer and Gardener, was, in May, 1834, obtained in New York from a Polish emigrant (who had just then arrived) by a gentleman living in the interior of Pennsylvania. Of this wheat the gentleman just mentioned raised a crop. He praises the grain

#### FROM EUROPE.

The packet ship *Orpheus*, Capt. Bursley, arrived at this port near the close of last week, bringing London advices to the 15th ult. eight days later. The intelligence is unimportant.

Parliament was prorogued on the 10th, by the King in person, after an unusually protracted session of seven months. The principal measure of the session has been the bill for the reform of Municipal Corporations, which has received the royal sanction. The Address of the Commons on the occasion of the prorogation alludes to the fact that a new loan of £15,000,000 has been effected, in order to defray the expense of the Abolition of Slavery in the Colonies. The King, in his reply, informs them that treaties have recently been concluded with Spain, Denmark, Sweden, and Sardinia, for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade—Parliament will re-assemble on the 5th November.

The revenue of O'Connell derived from the voluntary contribution of his admirers, amounts for this year to above \$60,000.

The King of France has just created thirty new Peers of the realm.

New Yorker.

LONDON, Sept. 14.

It is currently reported here that two conferences were held during last week by our minister respecting the affairs of Spain, and at the latter the Russian Ambassador was present, when it was decided that the French intervention should take place, and that forty thousand French troops were to enter Spain.

The news from Spain continues to be unfavorable to the Queen. It is said, on the authority of a telegraphic despatch from Bayonne, that a liberal junta had been formed in Madrid, and that the Queen had adhered to it. We do not think the latter part of the report probable; if it be true, she has been driven to this desperate measure by hard necessity, and it is only a prelude to the total destruction of her authority. Insurrections in favor of Don Carlos are taking place in all parts, & deserts both from the French Legion and the English mercenaries.

Espeleta proceeded to raise the siege of Bilbao, in which, according to the *Moniteur*, he succeeded. It is reported that the Curate Merino has been taken, but this partisan has been disposed of in so many ways already, that we are not inclined to pay the report much attention. The constitution of 1812 has been proclaimed at Badajoz.

London Standard.

TURKEY. Intelligence from Constantinople to 10th Aug. states that the plague was making fearful ravages in that city. The last intelligence bro't to the Porte from Albania was, that the vanguard of the army of Roumiley Valassy had been routed, with the loss of three thousand men attempting to cross the river Matt. Scutari is still holding out, although we had a report some days ago that it had yielded. Prince Milosch, on his arrival at Constantinople, marked his sense as to who are rulers of Turkey, by violating all Ottoman etiquette in going at once to the palace of the Russian legation before he visited the sultan. This, it is said, has deeply mortified his highness; but prince Milosch, we may be sure, well knew what he was about.

Tumult at Utica N. Y. By the Northern Mail of this day, we are apprised of a serious tumult at Utica on Wednesday, at the assembling of the State Anti-Slavery Convention. The City Council had voted to allow them the use of the