

# Public Ledger.

"It is harder to avoid censure, than to gain applause, for this may be done by one great or wise action in an age; but to escape censure, a man must pass his whole life without saying or doing one ill or foolish thing."

**Fellow Citizens:**—Through the columns of the Public Ledger, I wish to communicate to you the passage and the manner of the passage of the act, establishing county seminaries, also the ground I occupied, and the supposed delinquency of which I am charged. In the first place, the Bill originated in the senate, and was reported to the House of Representatives, on the afternoon of the 24th January, three days previous to the adjournment of the session. It was read a first and second time, (the rules having been dispensed with) and made the order of the day for that day. While the Bill was under consideration, Lewis, from Franklin, offered the following amendment:

Strike out that part of the first section, which authorizes the Judges of the circuit Court, to appoint Trustees, and insert the following in lieu thereof: "That the qualified voters, shall, on the first Monday of August next, and triennially thereafter, elect the Trustees for each county therein named, and in case of death, resignation or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Circuit Court, in term time, or the associate Judges in vacation, to appoint some suitable person, or persons to fill such vacancy until the next annual election."

On the question, shall the Bill be so amended, and the ayes and noes being demanded, 35 gentlemen voted in favor of the amendment, and 11 against it. Two of my colleagues and myself voted for the amendment. The amendment was then ordered to be engrossed with the bill, and read a third time the next day. The Bill was accordingly read a third time, and passed as amended, and the Clerk ordered to inform the Senate thereof. On the evening of that day, the Senate informed the H. R. that they disagreed to our amendment. A motion was then made by Dr. Ferris, that the H. R. recede from their amendment, which motion prevailed: two of my colleagues, and myself voted in the negative.

This fellow citizens, is a plain statement of facts, as per the records of the House will appear. But I am charged with delinquency, in not using every possible exertion to defeat the passage of the Bill; especially as it relates to the county of Wayne, and that I suffered the amendment made in the H. R. afterwards, to be lost and also that I did not on that occasion, endeavor to act the part of a Clay or a Webster. In filing my replication to those several charges I shall be brief. In the first place, it is well known even to a novice in the science of Legislation, that for some three or four days, immediately preceding the conclusion of a session, time is not given, nor an opportunity offered, to make strong impressions on the minds of the members; as their chief concern is speedily to wind up the business before them, which mostly consists, of messages to and from each other. In the second place, I had no disposition to defeat the passage of the Bill, after the amendment was adopted, as I conceived it would be settling a question in the county, which antecedent to that time, had made some noise, and I had no presentiment of the senate's disagreement, until immediately before the final adjournment of the session. A very large majority of the H. R. having supported the amendment, I had every confidence that Dr. Ferris's motion would not be sustained, nor could I possibly know it until the question was taken, and after it was taken, and carried it became a law, as far as the two houses were concerned. The only course I then could have pursued, would have been by a reconsideration of the vote just taken, which would not have carried on the face of it the least probability, as that would be instantaneously undoing, what the house had just done. It was a cool and candid decision. I occupied the floor a few minutes in support of the amendment; and perhaps as much was said in opposition to it. I did not then know that my constituents would make it a *sine qua non*, as to the ultimate disposition of this question in my reelection, nor can I yet think they will. From the commencement to the final determination of the bill, I pursued fearlessly an independent course, regardless of consequences; not expecting that exceptions would be raised against me, unless I had proved recreant.

In order more fully to explain the situation of the bill, when the senate disagreed to our amendment, I will quote a few observations from Jefferson's Manual, on which the science of legislation rests. He says "the house cannot recede from or insist on its own amendment; for the

same reason that it cannot send to the other house an amendment to its own act after it has passed the act. They may modify an amendment from the other house by ingrafting an amendment on it, because they have never assented to it; but they cannot amend their own amendment, because they have, on the question, passed it in that form." And then on the third reading of bills, he says, "after the bill is passed, there can be no further alterations of it in any point." Now to the subject—it has been alleged, that, through popular motives, I was deterred from opposing the bill, that I was under the control or fear of parties. In answer, I at once declare that to my recollection, such an idea never entered my mind, nor shall any interest separate and distinct from a general one, ever influence my vote, while exercising the duties of a representative of the people. I anxiously hope, the day is not far distant, when the cause which generates such suspicions may be ingulphed in the vortex of forgetfulness.

It has also been represented that a number of the citizens of this county, felt a deeper interest in the determination of the seminary question, than any other, that occupied the attention of that body, last session. I also had an interest in that question, so far at least, as to determine its location by a plurality of votes, and to effect that I was not wanting in my duty.

Yet I must contend, that there were other acts passed of more immediate benefit to the people, and in which they have a deeper interest. More than six hundred dollars less will be paid into the state treasury this year than was paid last year. By the amendments made to the Militia Law, a sum, I presume, not far short of the above will be retained in our county, and perhaps annually hereafter. This I conceive to be of greater advantage than \$450, (the Seminary fund at this time,) or its application in any particular section of our county, especially when it is known that this sum is the product of ten years.

Before I dismiss the subject I will touch on this would be obnoxious act. Since the subject has made a tangible appearance I have endeavored to ascertain the merits and demerits of the act. I discover the Trustees must give bond, and take an oath for the faithful performance of their duties. I understand the word duties to mean, the selection of a site for a County Seminary edifice embracing more general advantages and interests than any other, (and I think it might be further suggested) taking into consideration the donations which may be offered to facilitate the institution, and secure the same according to law. When acting under oath men are generally candid, and act without corruption; and if corruption or improper conduct can be fixed on them, or any of them, on complaint made, the Circuit Court has power to remove them. In the next place, the justices of the peace are apportioned to the different townships, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, &c. and as such may justly be considered our representatives in settling questions wherein the county is interested. The act then provides, that after the Trustees have performed their duty, in the selection of a site, &c. they shall lay their proceedings before the next Board of Justices for their approval. If approved of by them, or a majority of them, the contracts and proceedings of the Trustees become binding; if disapproved of, they consequently become void. Then, besides the bond and oaths of the Trustees, the Justice's Court acts as a check upon their proceedings, which might be considered almost tantamount to a plurality of votes. Relying therefore on the correctness of the Trustees, together with the Justice's Court, I will close the subject, and only add, that Wayne county expects every man to do his duty. HENRY HOOVER.

June 12, 1827.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

From London and Liverpool papers to April 12, inclusive.

**Great Britain and Ireland.** The subject of the formation of a new ministry is greatly agitated in London papers, the only fact given in relation to which, is that Sir John Copley, the master of the robe, has occupied the seals as lord chancellor. (Sir John Copley is a native of Boston, Mass.)

No successor for Mr. Peel was spoken of with any confidence. There was some expectation that he would be induced to resume his situation.

The members who have resigned were all those who had usually voted against the Catholic claims, besides Lord Milville, who usually voted for them.

Great rejoicings have taken place in Ireland, in consequence of the appointment of Mr. Canine, and the resignation of Lord Eldon, &c.—the people seem to think

that they now have some chance of improved emancipation.

**France.** The project of the law of the press, which excited so much attention, and for a time so much alarm in France, has been withdrawn by the ministry, after having undergone in the two chambers such alterations as made it altogether unfit for its intended purpose—the shaking of public discussion. This is a fresh proof of the spirit of independence growing up in the French legislature. Several streets were illuminated on the evening of the 17th ult. although the order for withdrawing the law had been issued but a short time; and on the next night, it was expected that this manifestation of joy would be general throughout the city.

**Spain.** The insurrections in Spain are gaining ground. A general rising was about to take place in Catalonia—and an article dated Barcelona, April 27th states—the flames of insurrection appear to be blazing throughout the whole province. From every quarter, advices on this occasion are arriving from the local authorities, civil, military, and judicial. Sedition was reigning first in the environs of Tortosa; it has burst out in the *corregimientos* of Gerona and Figueras. Those of Vich and Manresa have also yielded to the same influence, which looks as if it would extend its empire to the camp of Tarragona also.

The wealthy were leaving their dwellings in the country and flying to the walled towns.

**Greece & Turkey.** Accounts from Greece say, that, though suffering every extremity, they were determined to die a thousand deaths rather than return under the Turkish yoke. The brilliant affair at Aracova has been followed up by other successes in different parts of western Greece. Kariaskaki was in the vicinity of Lepanto, having raised the whole country between Missolonghi and Salona.

Athens is delivered from the presence of the enemy, the Greeks having chased Redschid Pacha from the town.

In one of the battles lately fought Madame Gouras, wife of the celebrated general of that name, was killed at the head of her troops. Mavrocordato has been banished to Syria by a decision of the government.

**Constantinople, March 18.**—All the European ministers at Pera have made representation to the Reis Effendi on the subject of the pacification of Greece, & have advised him to close with the propositions of Russia and England. Many persons regard this as a complete accession to the conferences of St. Petersburg of the 4th April, while others would point out a difference between the menacing attitude taken by the English and Russian ministers, and that of the other ministers, who limit themselves to simply recommending that their proposition may be accepted.

**Columbia.** A letter written by an American at Porto Cabello, dated the 24th ultimo, furnishes the following information as to the liberator's notion of raising the ways and means to meet the debt of the country. The extract is given literally.

"Lately Bolivar has laid an alcavalla duty on all products, say five per cent. on the valuation, which is taken from the current sales. He has also laid a tax of 400 dollars on merchants transacting commission business; on all retail dry good stores one of 150; and on smaller establishments, one of from 80 to 100 dollars per annum.

These taxes will produce a revenue of from three to four million dollars. He has discharged all military officers of duty, giving them a preference in civil employment, when they have capacity to fill them; he has reduced the present pay one half; abolished the reception of government paper for a season in the custom-houses; and in fact, has made such alterations as will in nine months pay the interest if not part of the principal of the national debt. More than two hundred!!! disaffected persons have been shot in Cumana and Apure, and general Paes has carried all before him in executing Bolivar's decrees: He is desperate and strict to every order of the liberator."

**Mexico.** The congress of Tacumbay had not convened as late as the middle of April last in consequence of the non arrival of some of the ministers, but would probably commence their session in three or four weeks.—Messrs. Sergeant and Poinsett were in good health. Mr. Pakenham has been appointed the British minister at the congress, in place of Mr. Ward, who had returned to Europe.

The differences which recently existed between Mexico and Texas had been arranged, and all expectation of anarchy arising from the plot headed by the friars, had been disappointed.

The Vera Cruz Mercury of April 23, contains a decree of the governor of that state, Miguel Barregani prohibiting all wa-

sonic associations, and decreeing to banishment all persons who shall be concerned in any such associations either in or out of the state. Any persons found guilty of masonic meetings to be punished by four years imprisonment. Don Mignel proclaims himself to be governor of "the free and sovereign of Vera Cruz."

The political discussions in Virginia very animated, and, as usual, vastly interesting. Meetings of ten or twenty freemen forth declarations occupying twice the space of that which set forth the reasons why the United States ought to be sovereign and independent. The much of a spirit of opposition to the slave, but no great show of attachment to Gen. Jackson, though both have many powerful friends. Either party have to regret that the presidential question has been agitated at such an early period, especially for the probability that it will be discussed with exceeding bitterness severe impeachments of motives.

**Royal Dividend.**—The common stock of the late Duke of York, that is, the tradesmen, mechanics, &c. who hold his bonds, will receive a dividend almost one shilling in the pound. It was subscribed to erect a monument to the memory of the prince. When we would suggest that the names of defrauded by him, and the amount of claims, shall be in-cribed upon it, so that he died like "a true prince," and ing the people. There is no possibility why he should not have paid his debts. He wallowed in wealth he had not earned, and the losses that may have caused were such as cannot be excused.—Niles.

**Exports.** We have already noted the export of home made machinery for the manufacture of cloth in Prussia and Great Britain! In reference to the "Baltimore Gazette" says—A singular fact has come to our knowledge. Some of the celebrated card making machines invented by Mr. Whittemore of Cambridge, Massachusetts, were sent to England and France, with most exact directions about putting them up, drawings, &c. No mechanic could find in either country who could put them together, and they were obliged to send to Boston for a man to go out and put them up.

The "Baltimore Chronicle," further tells us that Mr. Richardson, mill-owner of this city, is constructing the works of a steam flour mill, to run four pairs of stones, under orders from the government of the Netherlands.

**GLASS MANUFACTURES.** There are three of these in the immediate neighborhood of the city of New York, all on a very extensive scale. One of them employs more than one hundred workmen. The value produced in one of these establishments is not stated, but glass of every desirable quality is made in the best and most improved manner. Stained glass is made of great perfection.

There are now living in Manchester, Massachusetts, three men, aged 74, 75, and 70 years, two of them soldiers of the revolution, who are now, and for six months every year, employed in the fishing business; all sailing in the same boat, which is 22 years old.

The New York papers state that the Erie canal is now navigable the whole distance from Albany to Buffalo. A gentleman from Rochester states that he has as was estimated about 500 boats on the way to Albany, laden with the produce of the country. These boats carry 40 or about 200 barrels each.

The Ithaca (N. Y.) Journal contains the following notice: "Sailed from the port of Ithaca, May 9, a flotilla of twenty craft bound for New Haven, Connecticut; J. Smith, captain commandant."

The Plattsburgh Republican says: "Thursday last, Dr. Thomas dressed and shaved in this village, for the benefit of the Greeks; and at evening, the total value of his services were deposited in the Greek fund. This is truly a praiseworthy act; an act of patriotism and benevolence, for which the Doctor deserves much credit."

The ferment among the people of Canada is apparently on the increase. In one case it has been resolved to resist the 'nullification' bill."

The town of Barrington (N. H.) assessed no town tax last year; and as there was no state tax levied, the inhabitants of that town were free from taxation altogether. The only public expense was for powder, supplied at thirty three cents a pound.