

expediency of incorporating the pre-emption principle, with the provisions of the bill, and after much reflection, they are of the opinion that the two subjects are not incongruous, but are sufficiently germane to be united in the same bill. The committee, therefore, desirous of guarding the interests, and consulting the wishes of as large a portion of our fellow-citizens as possible, and of granting to the pioneers of the west such privileges as may do them ample justice in providing and securing to themselves and families freehold homes, have proposed to amend the bill, by the incorporation, in district sections, of a pre-emption measure, which they hope may be found to contain the necessary provisions, restrictions, and limitations, to secure to the *bona fide* actual settler, who alone is entitled to consideration, the benefit of his settlement and improvement upon a quantity of the public lands not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, at the minimum price, and excluding every possibility of the pre-emption privileges inuring to the benefit of any person other than the actual settler. The amendment proposed, it is believed, contains some new and valuable provisions, which may render it acceptable to some who have opposed former pre-emption laws, while its utility to the honest settler will not be in the least impaired.

The committee have noticed all the material amendments they proposed to the bill. The proposition submitted by resolutions of inquiry by a Senator from Mississippi, and the Senator from Tennessee, the committee have not thought proper to act definitely upon, except the pre-emption principle proposed by the former. Supposing that their merits would more appropriately, at the proper time, be brought before the Senate in separate bills and believing that the bill for the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands was sufficiently important in itself to exclude from all amendments calculated to prevent a distinct expression on its merits. The pre-emption principle, like that of distribution, is not a new one. It has received the sanction of Congress repeatedly, and public opinion has ratified the measure; hence it is believed that the connection of the two measures cannot embarrass either. The committee, therefore, report the bill, with the proposed amendments, for the action of the Senate.

## SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

INDIANAPOLIS:

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1841.

### MARION COUNTY NOMINATIONS.

The Whigs of this county held a Convention on Saturday, April 24, at which the following nominations were made:

Representatives—ISRAEL HARDING and AUSTIN W. MORRIS.

Treasurer and Collector—JACOB LANDIS.

Recorder—JAMES TURNER.

Auditor—JOHN W. HAMILTON.

Assessor—JOHN McCULLUM.

Commissioner, 1st district—HARRIS TYNER.

[Election on first Monday, 2d of August next.]

The annual election is at hand. In less than one short month the first Monday in August will have arrived. The certain return of this period must always bring with it, so long as our state constitution remains unaltered, the free exercise of a right, invaluable to every citizen, and which ought to be exercised with a sound discretion. If good selections be not made to fill the various offices necessary to be filled, it will hardly be charged, we apprehend, to a lack of candidates; for on this head there is seldom if ever a failure. But at the same time, all must be aware that it is not every one who may happen to fancy himself qualified and therefore deserving of the office for which he is determined to compete, that is so in reality. Mr. Jefferson, who was not a bad judge of the essential requisites of men seeking or to be preferred for public stations, recommended this emphatic enquiry—Is he honest? Is he capable? Would he be faithful to the constitution? Blind partiality and foolish prejudice, stimulated by interest, may occasionally induce persons to look so lightly on what was a settled conviction with Mr. Jefferson, as to treat it with seeming indifference. But will the discreet and sober minded portion of community be thus regardless? We apprehend not. They feel as if they had too much at stake to justify them in acting either rashly or unwisely. In addition to the tried integrity of individuals seeking office, according to Mr. Jefferson's test, it is, perhaps, not improper to enquire as to how they may have conducted their own private business. If this is essential in any case it will be found most so where persons offer to serve their fellow citizens in the Legislature. The situation of Indiana at the present, requires that individuals of ability and energy as well as undoubted integrity of character should be preferred. To commit the important business of Legislation to other hands, is at all times hazardous, but to do so at the present time would be not only the height of folly, but suicidal. It is a matter which commends itself to the serious consideration of every voter.

### Commissioner of the General Land Office.

In our last we intimated that the President had probably been misled as to the choice of the people of Indiana in the selection of Judge Huntington for this station. Further developments, together with our own observation, confirm this opinion. We are assured that in the south-east public opinion was decidedly in favor of another person. In the central part of the State it is evident to the most casual observer, that it is almost unanimous for the same individual. The same we are told and believe to be true of the eastern portion, whose delegate had no voice in the matter at Washington, as, belonging to the Opposition, he did not wish to interfere. One of the editors of this paper was lately through the heaviest counties lying in the north-west, where he heard an almost unanimous expression against Judge H. In fact he heard no one, and it was a subject frequently broached in conversation, express himself favorable to him. In the south-west and south, we think Judge Huntington the choice. As faithful journalists we are bound to notice those indications of public sentiment; but at the same time we are confident there will be found no disposition to cavil unnecessarily.

### APPOINTMENTS.—A Washington letter to the Editor of the Baltimore Patriot says:

It is now fully ascertained that the Hon. John Sergeant, member of Congress from the Philadelphia district of Pennsylvania, is to take the mission to Gen. N. D. GROVER and Mr. Douglass, and as there are three whig candidates in the field, the result is uncertain.

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