

VEVAY TIMES AND SWITZERLAND COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

manifestation! What will the crippled or worn soldier, and patriot of the Revolution, say to such a manifestation! Did he buckle on his armor, march to the field of battle, face the cannon's mouth, and risk fortune limb, and life, to break the chains of British slavery, that his sons and posterity to all time, (in the misfortunes of poverty) should be the subjects of a law that would have disgraced the conquerors of the tyrant in the most arbitrary and degraded days of the Reine, and make them the subjects of bargain and sale, and the slaves of the purse-proud and perfidious Shylock; and that too, for the mere crime of poverty, or of not having the ability to pay a fine, and a few dollars and cents of cost!—Sires of the Revolution! was this what you fought for; was it for this you bared your bosoms and bore up under the battle's hottest rage!—Had you no higher object than mere colonial emancipation to stimulate you, when you fought the enemy knee to knee, and breast to breast; on Bunker Hill, Monmouth, and Trenton, in suffocating dust and smoke; and when your brave compatriots in arms were sinking in fatigues and death by your side! You are not here; I will answer for you. You had higher objects.—Emancipation of your country, political liberty, religious toleration, and personal freedom, were your objects, and your rewards. Then, I ask, can you cast your suffrage to the support of a man for the highest office in your gift, who stands prepared in principle, and has attempted in practice, to sell your sons in slavery for the crime of poverty, and the ignorance of inability to liquidate a fine and cost, in which they may be imbruted by a little imprudence, without design or intention of crime? I am inclined to plout General Harrison's sympathies for the poor man (continued.)

A Voice from the Hermitage. Below we publish the reply of the venerable Hero of New Orleans, to the letter of a committee appointed by the last Legislature, inviting him to join the citizens of Ohio in celebrating the next anniversary of our National Independence:

HERMITAGE, May 11, 1840.

GENTLEMEN: I had the honor to receive, by due course of Mail, your dexterous communication of the 17th February last, enclosing the preamble and resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Ohio, by which I am invited to unite with them and the people of that State in celebrating the approaching anniversary of our National Independence.

An answer to this communication has been deferred thus long, because of my earnest wish to accept it, should the state of my health have continued such as to authorize the hope that I could perform the journey. But finding that my strength has not latterly increased, I am constrained to give up the agreeable wish, and must request you to convey to the Legislature and people of Ohio my sincere regret that it will not be in my power to wait upon them in person, and thank them for the very distinguished honor they have paid me.

I shall ever feel a debt of gratitude to the people of Ohio for the many proofs they have given me of their respect and confidence; and it is increased by the cordial terms in which their Representatives on this occasion have been pleased to renew their approbation of my conduct whilst in public service. In a country like ours, free and intelligent, public opinion is the great lever by which the Government is held to its proper functions, and we are authorized, from all our experience, to look to it as the best guarantee that our institutions will as permanent as they have been hitherto glorious to the cause of popular liberty. To be assured that my conduct, when subjected to this exalted test, can bear the favorable judgment expressed by the Legislature of your State, is therefore an honor of the highest kind, and one to which I feel that I am indebted more to their kindness and liberality than any merit of my own, save that of an honest intention in all my public acts to pursue fearlessly what I thought would conduce to the interest of my country.

It is particularly gratifying to me, gentlemen, to be assured by your Legislature that the grounds on which I treated my opposition to the encroachments of the money power are regarded with favor by the people of Ohio. The dangers of that power, now more evident because they are brought closer to the observation and business concerns of all classes of our citizens, form, in my judgment, the only cloud in our political horizon. In all other aspects, the influences adverse to the genius of our institutions seem to have yielded to the demands of the people, and such, I doubt not, will be the case with those wielded by the money power as soon as the public voice has another opportunity of acting upon them. All that we have to do on this subject, is to persevere a little longer, maintaining the doctrines of the Constitution and the suggestions of common sense. We know that our fathers who framed the Constitution gave to Congress no power to charter a Bank, and we cannot, therefore, in saying that if our Government had never departed from their example, we would have had none of the evils which now afflict us, in consequence of bank suspensions, and an irredeemable paper currency. We know that if the Government deposited none of the money of the people with banks, these institutions would have no power to endanger the safety of the public treasure, or to influence, improperly, questions of public policy. We know that banks do not make money, but only circulate their paper emissions, which must be good or bad according to their capacity to redeem them with specie, and hence that there can be no confidence in them as long as they maintain the right to suspend specie payments at pleasure.

From such truths, it appears to me to be self-evident, that there is now no relief for the people but in the adoption of the Independent Treasury recommended by the present Administration of the General Government. By this plan, the financial operations of the Treasury will be simplified, and the people will have the strong guarantee that the money which is raised from them by taxation will be applied according to the requirements of the Constitution. If, in addition to this reform in our financial system, Congress would, at the same time, pass a general bankrupt law, by which the banks which are now in existence, or may be hereafter chartered by the States, would be bound to make an equitable distribution of their effects to their creditors when they refuse to redeem their notes with specie, it cannot be doubted that there would be an end to the evils of a depreciated paper cur-

rency. These measures being adopted, but little would be requisite to enable those banking institutions which are sound to regain the public confidence; and the labor of the country, the farming, manufacturing, and mechanical interests would soon revive; that credit system which is based on real capital, and which goes hand in hand with the labor and enterprise of our citizens, would be enlarged, not diminished, by the removal of these measures.

Congratulating you, gentlemen, on the bright prospects which are before us in respect to the adoption of a proper remedy for the existing disorders of our currency, and trusting that our country will soon be free from the withering influences of a money power which is not recognised by the Constitution or the true interests of our country, I remain, with sentiments of profound respect and gratitude to the people and Legislature of your State, and to yourselves,

Your friend, and fellow-citizen,

ANDREW JACKSON.

To Samuel Spangler, Dowdy Utter, John E. Hunt, on behalf of the Senate.

To George H. Flood, Rufus P. Spalding, John H. Blair, Henry West, Edw. Smith, on behalf of the House of Representatives.

From the Kentucky Gazette.

Mr. Editor:—I perceive in your last paper, a call upon me to become a candidate for the Legislature. These notices of personal friendship, are by me duly appreciated; and my only regret is, that I am unable to respond affirmatively. My private interests, at present, imperatively demand my undivided attention.

Here I might close; but from the tenor of this call, it seems that my vote, at the next Presidential election, is the basis upon which "Many Voters" tender to me this invitation. Really, sir, I do not know a human being whose political opinions are likely, in any degree, to be affected by mine.—I have, it is true, watched the progress of this great controversy now pending between the Whigs and Democrats, with a heart free from rancor, and with a sincere disposition to come to such conclusions as the dignity and interests of the country demand. That these conclusions are incompatible with my recent party relations, I do, how, most fully and distinctly avow.

I shall not undertake to discuss the great questions now presented for the sole consideration of the American people, and upon the decision of which, in my judgement, much of the moral and intellectual character of this nation will hereafter depend. The public mind has authoritatively settled the question, that there should be a total and unqualified divorce of the Government from all Banks, State or National. The elections of '38 and '39 left the President in a triumphant majority upon the subject of the currency. Yet, strange to say, he is now in danger of his election, by the results of the Harrisburgh Convention, and the combination of alarming elements by which Gen. Harrison was put in nomination. There is something in this past my philosophy.

I have thought well of Gen. Harrison. I gave him an ardent and animated support in '38. I am not now unfriendly to him—yet, I confess that I feel a deep degree of humiliation, when it appeared, that he had suffered three men, in Cincinnati, to put forth that most dishonorable letter to the Oswego Association. The refusal of the Harrisburgh Convention to publish to the world the principles by which the Whigs are known and characterised as a party, deeply impaired my faith in their political integrity. The assumption of control over Gen. Harrison, by an arrogant committee, and his acquiescence therein, sadly admonish us that he is unfit to be the depository of this high trust. This, however, is merely personal, and goes to the personal qualifications of General Harrison for the Presidency.

"Put that and that together."

Wm. H. Harrison has resided much in Cincinnati, has held office there, and is better known there than in any other place; and Cincinnati gives a majority of nearly SEVENTEEN HUNDRED IN HIS FAVOR.

Martin Van Buren has resided much in Albany, has held office there, and is better known there than any where else, and Albany has given a majority of nearly FIVE HUNDRED AGAINST HIM.

Now, sir, I am wholly unable to satisfy myself with regard to Gen. Harrison's views touching all the great questions now at issue between the American people. Mr. Rives, in his late letter to the people of Virginia, took the ground, and reasoned with considerable plausibility, that General Harrison is opposed to a National Bank.

Such, surely, is not his political attitude before the people of Kentucky. Upon a question of such vital interest—the question of the currency—that which has so deeply agitated this nation, it is lamentable to think, that a candidate for the Presidency, should keep his opinions so shrouded in mystery, that in one section of the Union, he may be quoted on one side, and the reverse in another. Yet, candor compels the admission, that not only upon this, but upon nearly every subject that enters into the contest, is there a like degree of reserve exhibited.

I will not charge Gen. Harrison with being inextricably involved in that political malady, which, if it ever takes firm hold upon our system, dissolves this Union, as surely as that there now exists a slave population—I will not impute to him this monstrous sin, for which, if he be guilty, no atonement can be had in the splendor of his military deeds, or in the purity of his past life. But it is his friends, with his consent, deem it right to "make no further declaration of his principles for the public eye," then is he morally responsible for giving countenance to this fanatical sect. His conduct does most painfully contrast with the magnanimous position of his opponent—the President of the United States—who has alienated many of his Northern friends, by his stern fidelity to the South and West, upon this momentous question. We know that our fathers who framed the Constitution gave to Congress no power to charter a Bank, and we cannot, therefore, in saying that if our Government had never departed from their example, we would have had none of the evils which now afflict us, in consequence of bank suspensions, and an irredeemable paper currency. We know that if the Government deposited none of the money of the people with banks, these institutions would have no power to endanger the safety of the public treasure, or to influence, improperly, questions of public policy. We know that banks do not make money, but only circulate their paper emissions, which must be good or bad according to their capacity to redeem them with specie, and hence that there can be no confidence in them as long as they maintain the right to suspend specie payments at pleasure.

From such truths, it appears to me to be self-evident, that there is now no relief for the people but in the adoption of the Independent Treasury recommended by the present Administration of the General Government. By this plan, the financial operations of the Treasury will be simplified, and the people will have the strong guarantee that the money which is raised from them by taxation will be applied according to the requirements of the Constitution. If, in addition to this reform in our financial system, Congress would, at the same time, pass a general bankrupt law, by which the banks which are now in existence, or may be hereafter chartered by the States, would be bound to make an equitable distribution of their effects to their creditors when they refuse to redeem their notes with specie, it cannot be doubted that there would be an end to the evils of a depreciated paper cur-

rency. With my limited powers of observation, I can see no triumph to be achieved by the election of Gen. Harrison, but the simple substitution of one set of officers for another. This might be desirable, did it involve nothing more. But the

country ought not to be invoked to put its trust in Gen. Harrison, when he is not willing to put his trust in the country, but appeals to its "generous confidence" in advance, as is distinctly avowed by his accredited committee.

In coming to this conclusion, it gives me great pain to part from those with whom I have been politically associated. I feel deeply indebted to the county of Fayette for its repeated manifestations of kindness to me, and have endeavored to pay off the debt by a faithful application of my time and attention to its interests and character. I trust that the debt is paid—if not—very well aware am I, that this annunciation of my conclusions will, perhaps, forever put it out of my power to do so. If, however, the account is balanced, we shall part in peace.

R. N. WICKLIFFE.

Gen. Washington a Loco Foco.

Mr. Editor:—For the gratification of the whig party, alias BANK PARTY, will you have the goodness to publish the following letter, written to a member of the Senate of the Legislature of Maryland, and see if they do not find that Washington's views of a paper system were sound.

MOUNT VERNON, Feb. 17, 1788.

Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 30th ult. came duly to hand. To give an opinion in a cause of so much importance as that which has warmly agitated the two branches of your legislature, and which, from the appeal that is made, is likely to create great and perhaps dangerous divisions, is rather a delicate matter; but, as this diversity of opinion is on a subject, which has, I believe, occupied the minds of most men and as my sentiments thereon have been fully and decidedly expressed, long before the Assembly either in Maryland or this State was convened, I do not scruple to declare, that if I had a voice in your Legislature, it would have been given definitely against a paper emission upon the general principles of its utility as a representative, and the necessity of it as a medium.

To assign reasons for this opinion would be as unnecessary as tedious. The ground has been so often trod, that place hardly remains untouched. In a word, the necessity arising from a want or excess is represented as greater than it really is. I contend that it is by the substance, not with the shadow of a thing, we are to be benefited. The wisdom of man, in my humble opinion, cannot at this time devise a plan by which the credit of paper money would be long supported; consequently, depreciation keeps pace with the quantity of the emission, and articles for which it is exchanged rise in a greater ratio than the sinking value of the money. Wherein, then, is the PARMENT; the PLANTER, the ARTISAN, benefited? The debtor may be; because, as I have observed, he gives the shadow in lieu of the substance, and in proportion to his gain, the creditor or the body politic suffers. Whether it be a legal tender or not; it will, as has been observed very truly, leave no alternative. It must be that or nothing. An evil equally great is, the door it immediately opens for SPECULATION, by which the least designing, and perhaps most

VALUABLE PART OF THE COMMUNITY, are preyed upon by the more knowing and crafty speculators.

But contrary to my intention and declaration, I am offering reasons in support of my opinion; reasons too, which of all others are least pleasing to the advocate for paper money. I shall therefore only observe generally, that so many people have suffered by former EMISSIONS, THAT LIKE A BURNT CHILD WHO DREADS THE FIRE, no person will touch it who can possibly avoid it. The natural consequence of which will be, that the species, which remains unexposed, will be instantly looked up—with great esteem and regard. I am, dear Sir, &c.

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Congress.

Thursday, May 21.—In the Senate, several petitions were presented, reports received from committees on petitions referred, and notices given of bills to be introduced. After disposing of some further routine business, the bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy being taken up, the Senate was addressed on the subject by Messrs. Hubbard, Clayton, Lumpkin, Clay, of Kentucky, Walker, Webster, and Tallmadge. The bill was then postponed to the next day, and the Senate shortly after adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the unfinished business of the morning hour was, the bill from the Senate, entitled, an act, supplementary to the act, granting pre-emption rights to settlers on the public lands, on which the previous question had been taken the day before. The Speaker had decided that the previous question would apply to the committee of the bill and not to its engrossment, and from this decision Mr. Casey had appealed; upon which, Mr. Hopkins had moved to lay the appeal (including the whole bill) on the table, and this was the question pending. The question being now on that motion, Mr. W. C. Johnson moved a call of the House, which was agreed to, and the bill on, which the question had risen was laid aside for further action. The Committee then acted on several other bills until the hour of recess. After the recess, the Committee resumed and considered a number of private bills, which were reported to the House, and then the House adjourned.

In the Senate 25th, a message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting copies of a letter from the Sultan of Muscat, and the reply thereto, which was ordered to be printed. The debate on the Bankrupt bill was renewed by Mr. Hubbard, who opposed it at much length and with great ability the bill reported by the majority of the committee, believing it to be inexpedient and of doubtful constitutionality. He expressed his determination to vote against any bill which authorized compulsory bankruptcy against the agricultural classes—and contended that all the objections which were urged against subjecting banks and other corporations to the operations of a bankrupt law, would apply with as much force in the case of individuals. He concluded by saying, that if the substitute proposed by Mr. Wall was adopted, with certain modifications, he would probably give his vote for the bill. By agreement, the question on the substitute was postponed until to-morrow.

The House was occupied all day in the reception of petitions from the several States, and the reports from the various standing committees.

Coinage of the United States.

The following facts are taken from a report of the Secretary of the Treasury to the Senate relative to the import and export of coin and bullion, and the coining of the United States Mints:

Amount of American coin and bullion exported from the 30th September, 1838, to 1839, \$2,30,076 dollars.

Amount of coin and bullion imported into the United States from the 30th September, 1831, to 1839, \$103,841, 504.

Amount exported during the same period, \$121,222, 821.

The coining at the Philadelphia Mint, since its establishment in the year 1793, to the year 1839, inclusive was—

Gold coin, \$35,913,002 50 cents.

Silver coin, \$33,077,329 00 cents.

The coining, in the years 1838 and 1839, at the branch mint at New Orleans was—gold, \$23,400; silver, \$20,403. At the Charlotte branch mint, during the same period, \$246,932 50 cents were coined in gold; and at the Dahlonega branch mint, \$231,795.

The amount of gold from North Carolina coined at the Philadelphia mint, up to 1838, was \$2,449,500.

The coining at the mint in London from 1816 to 1836, was—in gold, £55,151,716 4s. 1d.; silver, £10,260,231 1s. 1d.; copper, £150,167 4s. Total, £65,592,107 1s. 1d.

The mines in the gold region of North Carolina are estimated to have yielded, since their discovery, \$10,000,000; and their annual product at this time is about \$100,000.

Mr. Bechtler's private manufactory of coin in the above region, produced from January, 1831, to February 1840, of coin \$2,211,840 50 cents; and 1,729,988 dwt of fluxed gold.