

COURIER

Terre-Haute, Ind.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1833.

The Editor of the Courier is at present absent on business connected with the duties of his office. On his return, due notice will be taken of his "friend," the Editor of the "Free Press."

We understand, says the Richmond Enquirer, that Peter V. Daniel, Esq. has declined the appointment of Attorney General of the United States, which has been tendered to him by the President.

The reader will find in this paper, the proceedings of a public meeting, held in Evansville, on the 2d inst. at which it was resolved to instruct the Representative and Senator of that county to procure the passage of a law incorporating a company for the erection of a Rail Road from Evansville, on the Ohio river, to intersect the contemplated Canal, at or near the mouth of the Tippecanoe river, on the Wabash. Would it not be wise to call a meeting of the citizens of Terre Haute, on this important subject, so intimately connected with the prosperity of this town, and the whole valley of the Wabash?

We insert to day, by request, the proceedings of a meeting of individuals, styled by themselves, "Democratic Republicans," held in this place on Saturday last.

With the motives of the gentlemen who composed that meeting, we have nothing to do—we did not attend, ourselves, and consequently have nothing but rumor upon which to form an opinion as to the object they have in view—all of them we are proud to number in the list of those we call our friends, but as faithful chroniclers of passing events, we feel ourselves compelled to say, that so far as we are enabled to judge, we can see no possible good that will result to our State, either at home or abroad, by removing our present Chief Magistrate, whom we have never had one more able or efficient, and substituting in his stead, an individual whom the people know nothing about, merely because he happens to agree in politics, with the dominant party for the time being.

Agreeably to previous notice given, the Democratic Republicans met at the court-house, in Terre Haute, on Saturday the 23d of Nov. to appoint Delegates to the State Convention, to be held at Indianapolis on the 2d Monday of December next—J. B. JENCKS, Esq. was called to the chair, and Doct. E. V. BALL appointed Secretary. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting highly approves of the contemplated Convention, to be held at Indianapolis on the 2d Monday in December next, for the purpose of nominating suitable persons for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and that we urge the propriety of the State Convention, appointing Delegates to attend a National Convention at such time and place as the Democratic party of the Union may think proper.

Resolved, That this meeting will use all just and honorable measures in furthering the views of the Democratic party; and for the purpose of carrying the above views into effect, we do hereby appoint Wm. Wines and Ralph Wilson as Delegates to represent this meeting in the State Convention.

J. B. JENCKS, Chairman.

E. V. BALL, Secretary.

Chief Justice Marshall.—Mr. John Bailey, Chairman of the Anti-Masonic Convention, addressed a note to the venerable J. Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States, requesting his opinion on the Masonic Institution. The following is the concluding part of his reply:

"Although I attach no importance to the opinions which I may entertain respecting Masonry, yet I ought not to refuse, on application, to disavow any expressions which may be ascribed to me, that I ever used. I have said that I always understood the arts taken by a Mason as being subordinate to his obligation as a citizen to the laws, but have never affirmed that there was any positive good or ill in the institution itself."

The resolution also inquires "whether, as the friend and nephew of Washington, I have in my possession or recollection, any knowledge of any acts of General Washington, or any documents written by him to masonic bodies approving of masonry?"

The papers of General Washington were restored, many years past, to my lamented friend, his nephew, and are now, I believe, in the possession of Mr. Sparks. I do not recollect any document respecting masonry, nor do I recollect ever to have heard him utter a syllable on the subject. Such a document, however, not being of a character to make any impression at the time, may have passed from my memory."

With great respect, I am, Sir, your obt. servt. J. MARSHALL.

To John Bailey, Esq.

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

At a meeting of the citizens of Evansville and its vicinity, held in pursuance of public notice, on Saturday, the 2d day of November, 1833—Wm. Lewis was called to the chair and FRANCIS MAXWELL appointed Secretary. Whereupon, the object of the meeting being explained, the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That our Senator and Representative, be respectively instructed to use their best endeavors to obtain a Charter for the purpose of incorporating a company for the erection of a Rail Road from Evansville via Princeton, Vincennes, Terre Haute, and thence to connect with the contemplated Canal, at or near the mouth of the Tippecanoe River.

Resolved, That while the citizens of Evansville and its vicinity will cheerfully co-operate in any measure which the citizens of the Wabash and White River countries may adopt, for the purpose of removing obstructions, or otherwise, to improve the navigation of those rivers, at the same time solicit their co-operation in effecting the purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That our Senator and Representative, be further instructed, to use their best endeavors for the passage of a memorial to Congress, praying the establishment of a Hospital at Evansville, for the benefit of sick watermen, who may arrive at the place in indigent circumstances.

Resolved, That James Lewis, John Mitchell, John W. Littleton, D. S. Lane, and R. M. Evans, be appointed a committee, to draft and forward a petition to our next Legislature, in behalf of the citizens of Evansville and its vicinity, in furtherance of the objects aforesaid.

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, be forwarded by the Secretary to the Editor of the Western Sun, the Vincennes Gazette, and the Wabash Courier, with a request that they give the same an insertion in their respective papers.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE HERALD.

EXECUTIVE USURPATION.

The power of the President of the United States, is becoming a subject of no little anxiety and alarm. There is no man, at all acquainted with its extent, who need not feel solicitude for the safety of our institutions. Heretofore, this power, being placed in the hands of honest, sober, and discreet men, has (through the mildness and wisdom with which it has been exercised) excited but little jealousy in the public mind. Indeed, its extent, or rather the excess to which it may be carried, seems never to have been brought fully into view, until it fell into the hands of this reckless and profligate administration. None believed, until Jackson and his wicked counsellors rendered it no longer doubtful that the powers, legitimate or illegitimate, of the President of the United States, extended further than those of the King of England. But the problem has been so worked by the mischievous ingenuity of this administration that no man can longer doubt as to the *quod erat demonstrandum*.

What may not the President of the United States do in virtue of his office? The question is best answered by stating what he has done:

1. He has assumed and exercised the power of removing at his own will and pleasure all minor officers of the Federal Government in any way dependent upon or connected with the Executive Department, in order to make way for hungry partisans, to appear vindictive passions.

2. He has assumed and exercised the power of controlling the public press, by establishing a system of rewards and punishments among editors of papers, proscribing his opponents and promoting his partisans, thus squandering the public treasure, and perverting the public trust to purposes altogether private and personal. The history of the Globe, and a hundred others, affords abundant proof of this charge. The effect is, to draw around him and his power one knot of mercenary hirelings, and to bend to his will the pillars of our liberty—a free and independent press.

3. He has assumed and exercised the power of settling the rules of social intercourse, and dictating the law to private association. The dissolution of his Cabinet without a solitary reason of a public nature, testifies amply to the truth of this charge. The effect is to make his will the paramount rule of conduct with all such who hold a public trust.

4. He has assumed and exercised the power of directing the most important elections of the people in the several States. His letter to Grundy, (to say nothing of the working of his hundred secret agents,) affords the strongest evidence of the truth of this charge. The effect is, to substitute his will for the free and unbought suffrages of the people, and whom they should choose as his successor; and has moreover, abused the patronage of his office to advance those ends.

5. He has assumed and exercised the power of putting at naught the authority of the other branches of the government, both legislative and judicial. His veto of the bank bill, (to go no further,) proves the truth of this charge: for in that message the principle is distinctly asserted, that though an act, in defiance of his negative, were passed by the constitutional majority of both Houses of Congress, and sanctioned by one court, that he would not be bound to give it effect, unless pleased him. The effect is, to substitute his arbitrary will for the constitution of the country, and to trample under foot every limitation which has been placed by the people on his power. In other words, to make his ungoverned will the only measure of his ungoverned power.

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7. He has assumed and exercised the power of directing the elections of corporate bodies; and virtually of appointing the officers. The threat that he would veto any appropriation made by Congress in a of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, until the stockholders removed a meritorious man, and substituted a creature of his own; and the subsequent removal of C. Mercer without a solitary reason assigned and the election of J. H. Eaton, a destitute of every qualification, demonstrate the truth of this charge. The effect is, to make his will the supreme law in matters with which he may choose to intermeddle; and arbitrarily to apportion the emoluments and honors due only to service and experience, as rewards to his retainers and parasites.

8. He has assumed and exercised the power of instituting foreign missions, and appointing officers, not only without the advice and consent of his constitutional advisers, but in direct opposition to their most solemn and repeated protests. The cases of the Turkish ministers, and of Samuel Gwin, leave no doubt as to the truth of this charge. The effect is, to bring into contact the rights and dignity of the Senate to his pleasure;—and to make his will paramount to the most sacred obligations of the constitution.

9. He has assumed and exercised the power of dismissing military and naval officers at pleasure; not only without the ordinary constitutional tribunals, but in defiance of their acquittal. The case of R. B. Ran-

don, (not to mention others,) furnishes ample truth of this charge. The effect is to bring into subjection to his will the whole of the naval and military power of the country; for it is manifest without the aid of the conclusive argument of 'PRELIS,' that if the commissioners of our military and naval officers depend entirely upon his will, the SWORD of the country is entirely in his own hands.

10. He has assumed and exercised the power of controlling the public treasure in his own way, regardless alike of the rights and wishes of congress, and the integrity and pledged faith of the people. The case of the bank depositories is conclusive as to the truth of the charge. The effect is to get the PURSE as well as the SWORD in his own hands, and with them to establish the despotism of his own will, upon the ruins of the constitution and liberties.

Among the rumors at Washington, we find the following in the Intelligencer.

There is a rumor in circulation, entitled to do we not know what credit, that the Secretary of the Treasury has apprised the President that he finds he cannot get along with his administration of the Finances, now that the Treasury is deprived of the services of the Bank of the United States. It is even rumored that already the folly of the change in the Government depository has become so apparent, that they are to be restored! Our readers will not understand us as vouching for the truth of these rumors, which come thick and fast one upon another. When we believe them, we shall plainly tell them so. For the present, we doubt whether the Treasury has yet had a taste of the quality of its new financial agents; it happening very fortunately for the Government that there are funds still in the Bank of the United States to be drawn upon. When the time comes for drawing on the *pet banks*, we shall see how they will bear it, and how the Secretary of the Treasury will get along with them.

We stated a few days since, that the Legislature of Rhode Island had declared the election of Mr. Robbins, to the United States Senate, null and void; and had elected in his place a man of the name of Porter, a person busy in the matter at issue. This extraordinary act needs some explanation. It is known, perhaps, that the little State of Rhode Island has no constitution; it contents itself with a charter from one of the Charleses of England. Some time since, the Legislature passed a "perpetuation act;" which declared that if there was no election of State Senators, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, by the people, then those already in power should hold office until an election should be had. This situation of affairs occurred in 1832, and of course the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Senate continued, while a new canvass was carried on: meantime a choice of a *House of Representatives* of a Legislature, composed of Jackson men and Anti-masons, that the perpetuation act was *illegal*; which declared that if there was no election of State Senators, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, by the people, then those already in power should hold office until an election should be had. This situation of affairs occurred in 1832, and of course the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Senate continued, while a new canvass was carried on: meantime a choice of a *House of Representatives* of a Legislature, composed of Jackson men and Anti-masons, that the perpetuation act was *illegal*; which declared that if there was no election of State Senators, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, by the people, then those already in power should hold office until an election should be had. 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