

To the People of Indiana.

Fellow Citizens,

The present deplorable state of our currency has become the true subject of complaint among all classes of people. The Merchant in his daily transactions is made to feel the evil in all its magnitude; and even the individual, whose occasions seem not to require the same intimate knowledge of money, by frequently finding himself in possession of a forged note, or one on a bank which has (to use the accommodating phrase of the day) "closed its business," feels himself prompted, in the bitterness of his soul, to imprecate destruction on all such establishments, and those concerned in them.

In this country, the many inducements which the facility of doing business on fictitious capitals and on fraudulent principles may be supposed to hold out to men of depraved minds, eager to embark in any kind of legalized swindling, has started such a quantity of these institutions into existence, that, to a person daily in the practice of handling their notes, it really becomes no trivial part of his daily business to inform himself which has failed—which refused specie payment—which withholds even the wretched accommodation of exchanging the notes of other banks, perhaps equally depreciated, for their own;—and to proportion the credit of each to that which these acts severally justify.

It is painful to observe that an evil, vitally affecting the property, the character, the independence—we had almost said the very existence of the American people—an evil which has been growing for years and is daily becoming more and more intolerable, should have excited so little attention from our Legislature during their last session: one would have supposed, that, acting as the faithful guardians of the people's rights, their mental energies would have been employed in devising expedients, if not to eradicate its existence, at least to put a stop to its increase, and by some wise regulations, render it more endurable. But, citizens of Indiana, how keenly must you have felt the unfaithfulness, incapacity or ignorance of your guardians & representatives, when on looking over the laws enacted by that body and approved by your governor at their last sitting, you observe that any which have a reference to the subject at all, directly and avowedly tend to perpetuate this cursed banking system on ourselves and our posterity to the latest generation. In what other light can that law be viewed which provides that if any creditor refuses payment in notes current at the time the tender is made, (which by-the-by is a difficult matter to ascertain, because some merchants refuse what others receive) he shall be obliged to wait one year ere he can command any equivalent to which, in his estimation, value should be attached. The obvious tendency which this law has to break down and weaken that virtuous stand which some of our reflecting citizens might be disposed to make for the purpose of discountenancing those swarms of depreciated paper which now form our circulating medium, is sufficiently apparent: to produce such an effect, it was in all probability intended by a majority of our enlightened legislators. We learn also from the public newspapers that another law of precisely a similar cast has received their concurrence; we allude to the one prohibiting the establishment of a Branch of the United States' Bank in this state—a law since declared by the highest authority of the nation, they were not competent to enact. Their object in passing it we can easily conceive by the general tenor of their other acts, was to remove that obnoxious check which such an institution would have maintained over the operations of those banks now established among us;—and thus we discover with what friendly anxiety our Legislature seem disposed to pursue or adopt any measure calculated in the most remote degree to facilitate the free circulation among us of all the rags which can be collected from the four quarters of the Union, in addition to those of home manufacture—unrestrained by any control whatever.

We put the question to you, fellow-citizens: are men, capable of enacting laws whose tendency is so pernicious as this the man whose sanction to them is required ere they can take effect, and who affords that sanction, deserving of any other treatment from you than to be hurled from stations they know not how to occupy? We speak of the majority—the minority, who opposed the passage of such acts, are entitled to our unqualified praise.

But fellow-citizens if those to whom we have delegated the guar-

dianship of our rights and property have proved unfaithful or incompetent to the trust. Shall we the people, the body from whom all power emanates, fold our arms in listless indifference till this direful calamity engulf us in one general ruin? Let not the farmer imagine that so long as he can pass to the merchant the common paper now in circulation the effect of its depreciation is unfelt by him. The writer of this article is well aware that from a spirit of competition among the merchants of this place (which may be viewed as the emporium of the state) an enhancement on the prices of goods in any degree proportionate to their losses in exchanging the money taken in exchange for them, has not as yet been established and that consequently the calamity has visited this class of people with a more oppressive weight than perhaps any other. But so exorbitant of late have their losses become on the article of money, that with several it becomes a question whether or not they shall be able to realize first cost out of their present stock of goods, if continuing to sell at the current prices. To suppose, therefore, that men will continue in an occupation where no adequate compensation is attached to the labor, expense and risk incurred in the pursuit of it, is to expect an effect without a cause; nay more—is to expect that they will heedlessly involve themselves in ruin while their understandings are convinced that that must be the inevitable consequence. Should no change in the existing state of things take place, we say it is reasonable to expect that merchants must be under the necessity of advancing the price of their goods proportionate to the losses they sustain in exchanging the money, & then the consumer, who ever he be, will feel the oppressive load with which banking institutions, as at present conducted, tax the fruits of his honest industry.

The farmer already experiences in the difficulty of exchanging the depreciated paper which he is obliged to take for his produce, into such as will liquidate his original debt to the government, and in the losses, inconvenience and uncertainty to which he is subjected ere he can accomplish it, a few of the evils which the unrestrained liberty enjoyed by banks of inundating a country with their issues to any amount they please necessarily produce. We wish to prepare his mind for those mischiefs yet to be developed, when the poison which is now rapidly working its way, shall have completely transfused itself throughout the entire system—when confidence between man and man shall be but a name—when bankers (for the crisis seems fast approaching) acting as little despots in the several places where they are located, holding one part of the people in subjection, and the other at defiance, and following up the victories they have already achieved over the liberties, the virtue and public spirit of the people, shall insolently command the individual to begone from their doors who dares to present one of their notes and humbly intreat them for payment.

But without expatiating further on the misfortunes to which we are subjected through the fostering care extended by our legislature towards those *shaving machines*, the question of most moment for us to discuss & understand respects the measures which may yet be adopted to counteract them as far as possible, ere our liberties, our property and ourselves shall have fallen a prey to their hellish influence; & here the writer of this article, without entering on that field of interesting though abstruse discussion which the subject if viewed by the light which the science of political economy now affords, would merely confine himself to a few obvious and practical remarks.

It appears to him that the Press, the grand exposé of tyranny and oppression, under whatever shape or form it exists, might be made eminently serviceable in circulating correct information throughout the country with respect to the solvency of the several banks whose notes now circulate among us, were every merchant or trader having occasion to make a demand on a bank to inform the public through the medium of news-papers with the reception he meets. Were the merchants of this place, who certainly as a body possess the best opportunities of ascertaining their solvency to enter into a determination that they would not receive the bills of any who were unable to redeem in specie, and to publish regularly in the papers those they would receive, and did every individual view it in the light of a duty he owed his country which he was bound sacredly to perform, to discountenance both in his own mercantile transactions and by every other means in his power the circulation of a single dol-

lar of spurious paper, we should soon have a better currency. Temporary inconvenience would no doubt be felt by holders of such paper till they could return it to the place from whence it came, but important benefit to the community at large would unquestionably be the result.

If the people were only alive to the preservation of their liberties or property, we should feel a cheering hope that they would unanimously adopt so wise, so beneficial a determination.—Let us, although it may be we shall never be the favored participants in that change which it would introduce, just behold in prospect the happy effects of it. As it respects the town we live in and its immediate vicinity it would kick out of circulation a quantity of steam mill paper which has usurped the place of a better medium, or oblige those who issue it, to its redemption in money really current, not nominally so.

The farmer who has attentively watched the operations of this establishment since its commencement and has observed or thought he observed, symptoms of a suspicious character, feels anxious to part with every dollar of such paper, almost as soon as he receives it; and rather than lay it past will purchase articles he really does not want. This seems to create an object generally desired, a brisk circulation of money—but it is in reality a circulation impoverishing to the farmer, and as goods now sell, of little benefit to the merchant. We say, that viewing prospectively the changes which the measures we have pointed out would introduce into the present state of things, if the steam mill company were able to redeem their notes in such money as would then be current & evinced a disposition to do so, their establishment would be deserving of the applause, the countenance & support of every honest man in the community; but as existing at present, the mere dependant on the Vincennes bank, the engine thro which that bank foists upon the public as current money, an enormous issue of paper at 6 months, its operations cannot be watched with too much jealousy.—We were on the point of saying—cannot, so long as they are of such a character, be sufficiently held up to public execration.

To discount on the various other benefits which would arise from the introduction of a better circulating medium, would almost seem to be abusing the patience of my readers. That it would completely test the solvency of the steam-mill establishment is abundantly obvious, & either quiet the apprehensions of those who believe it to be not founded on capital, or oblige its operations to cease. If continued, its conductors would be forced to abandon that position they have dared to assume, and instead of presuming to dictate to the public what is, and what is not current paper, they would allow the public to be the proper judges of a matter which so nearly concerns them.

This, fellow-citizens, may be supposed to be an attack on men and measures too direct, too daring, to accomplish the object it means to subvert—it is the bold and fearless language of freedom, disdaining to succumb to any man or set of men, and coming from one who not merely recognizes in theory, but who wishes to exemplify in practice; his feeling of one of those blessings our fathers have bequeathed to us—the unbounded liberty of communicating our opinions either by speech or by writing on all subjects connected with the public welfare; aware that those who may feel themselves affected by it, have the same medium of reply that he has of attack—and that considered in the abstract none perhaps would be more zealous sticklers for the exercise of this privilege than themselves. Did our citizens on the promulgation of every act of imposition similar to that which the Vincennes Bank is now engaged in, we mean the issuing of paper payable 6 months after date, thereby not only committing a breach of one of our laws, which enacts that no higher interest than 6 per cent. shall be charged, but depriving the country of so much active capital for the benefit of a few interested men, till their notes become due; we repeat it, did every citizen consider it his duty to hold up such acts to public censure, it would at least have the effect of curbing the insolent spirit of these institutions, and perhaps destroy in the bud many an unfledged act of villany, of which we may have no conception; but which, emboldened by impunity, may now be hatching to rivet more effectually the chains of slavery on the American people.

But not to weary our readers further in the prosecution of a subject whose immensity only opens to us as we proceed, we shall conclude for the present.

A CITIZEN.

BLANK LICENSES, &c.

JACOBS & LeROY,

Offer For Sale

ON REASONABLE TERMS,

22 Barrels Kentucky

WHISKEY,

AND

26 Barrels Country

GIN.

JUST RECEIVED.

Vincennes, April 24.—17—tf

TO LET,

A Large two story frame HOUSE, on Main street opposite Mr. Lagow's store.—

For further information, apply at Dr. Wood's Apothecary shop. April 24.—3t

FOR SALE,

On reasonable terms,

A sett of

BLACKSMITH'S TOOLS.

Apply to DAVID McHENRY. April 22.—17—tf

General W. Johnston,

HAS resumed the practice of Law, in conjunction with

George W. Lindsay.

Their practice will extend throughout the Fourth circuit, and in the county of Knox in the first circuit.

They have established their office in Princeton, where they will also execute conveyancing in its various branches at the shortest request.

From their attention to business, they hope to obtain a share of patronage from a liberal public.

April 2d, 1819.

14—tf

EVANSVILLE

WARE-HOUSE.

THE undersigned most respectfully informs the public that the has resumed the

STORAGE AND Commission Business.

AT EVANSVILLE, (INDIANA.) All favors will be thankfully received and promptly attended to, on a moderate commission.

E. HARRISON,

Near the Upper Landing.

Evansville, (Ind.) Nov. 29.—1—tf

LIME.

The highest price in Cash, will be given for

2000 BUSHELS OF

LIME.

ENQUIRE OF

THE PRINTER.

February 4.

10—tf

To the Citizens of KNOX COUNTY.

THE subscriber having returned to Vincennes and settled himself permanently, offers his services in the practice of

Physic and Surgery.

those who wish to consult him may find him generally at his shop next door below Mr. John Ewing's store.

ROBT. ALLISON.

March 25, 1819.

14—tf

NOTICE.

THE public are hereby informed that Stock in the

Jeffersonville

OHIO CANAL COMPANY, may now be subscribed for at the Receiver's office in Vincennes, where the books are opened for that purpose.

B. PARKE, Agent.

N. EWING, } Deputy

J. DOTY, } Agents.

Vincennes, June 26, 1818.

30—tf

H. H. Moore & J. N. Dunbar (Attorneys & Counsellors at Law.)

HAVING entered into partnership, will in future practice law in conjunction, they will attend the Circuit Courts of Orange, Washington, Jackson, Jefferson, Clark and Harrison;—also the Federal and Supreme Courts, and one of them will attend in the western circuit. Those who wish to consult them in their professional capacity, will find one or the other, constantly at their Office in Corydon.

MOORE & DUNBAR.

Letters on business must be post paid.

NOTICE.

I HAVE fully authorised John Bruner to sell my house and lot, to collect my debts and pay the money over to my creditors when collected, during my absence to New-Orleans.

SAML. BRUNER.

Vincennes, March 27.

13—tf

Treasury Department,

Second Comptroller's Office,

March 25th, 1819.

Whereas, by the act entitled "An act regulating the payments to invalid pensioners," passed the 3d of the present month, an affidavit of two surgeons or physicians, as to the continuance and rate of disability of the several applicants must accompany their respective applications for the first payment which shall fall due after the 4th of March next, and at the end of every two years thereafter: And whereas some misunderstanding may arise as to the time when the above mentioned act shall go into operation:

This is to notify all whom it may concern, that, by the construction given to the said act by the second comptroller of the treasury, the before mentioned affidavits (agreeably to the form published by the hon. the secretary of war, under date of 23d inst.) will be required to accompany the application for all pensions to which they apply, falling due on the 4th day of September next.

RICHARD CUTTS,

(17.1st sept.) 2d comptroller.

WANTED.—The Subscriber wishes to employ a good

Journeyman Tanner & Currier,

to whom good wages and constant employ will be given.

He will also take one or two Apprentices to the Tanning & Currying Business.

WILLIAM HART.

Washington township, Ap. 24—17—3

SHERIFF'S SALE.

BY virtue of three executions directed to the sheriff of Gibson county, there will be exposed to sale at public auction at the house of B. Brown in Princeton, on the 6th day of May next, the undivided moiety of

Thirty Acres of LAND,

lying immediately west of the farm whereon Robert M. Evans now lives, being part of the south east quarter of section No. 12 in what is commonly called the 'seminary township.'

Taken as the property of William A. Tarlton, to satisfy an execution in favor of John W. Maddox, one in favor of Jones & Stockwell, and one in favor of Lidia Cooke, all against the said Wm. A. Tarlton. Sale to commence between the hours of ten and twelve, where due attendance will be given by

JA's K. SLOAN, D. S. C. C.

April 22.—xvii—tf

Jacobs & LeRoy,

HAVE JUST RECEIVED:

2 Ton of best Juniati Iron,
10 Casks 4, 6, 8 & 10d Nails & brads
Spades, Shovels and Axes,
Anvils and Vices, (best quality)
6 boxes 8 by 10 Window Glass.

AN ASSORTMENT OF

GLASS-WARE, &c.

January 23.

8—tf

STORAGE

AND

COMMISSION BUSINESS.

THE subscribers respectfully inform the public, that they have commenced the

STORAGE

AND

COMMISSION BUSINESS.

IN VINCENNES,

where GOODS, WARES & MERCHANDIZE,

of every description, both

Foreign and Domestic, will be received and sold as the owner's may direct.

All Goods directed to Hugh McGary or E. Harrison, at EVANSVILLE, mouth of Big Pidgeon, or to John Marshall, SHAWNEE-TOWN for Jeremiah and William L. Colman, Vincennes, will be attended to and forwarded without delay.

All favors in their line will be thankfully received and promptly attended to.

J. & W. L. COLMAN.

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We have just received

A FRESH SUPPLY OF

MERCHANDIZE,

CONSISTING OF

DRY-GOODS,

HARD-WARE,

GLASS-WARE, &

GROCERIES,

which added to their former stock, makes their assortment complete.

J. & W. L. C.

ENTERTAINMENT

FRANCIS CUNNINGHAM.

HAS opened a House of Entertainment, at the corner of Market and Fifth streets, in the house lately occupied by Joshua Bond, where he hopes by attention to business, to receive a share of public patronage—he assures them that no exertion on his part shall be wanting to merit it.

Vincennes, Sept. 26, 1817—43tf