

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

NEW-YORK, JUNE 23

Yesterday morning, between 4 and 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in the distillery in the rear of Broadway, between White and Walker streets. The flames spread with great rapidity, and, before they were got under, destroyed and materially injured about twenty-seven buildings, several of them new and valuable brick houses. All the block fronting on Broadway, between the two streets above mentioned, with the exception of three houses next to White street, are destroyed, and two of those three much injured. The roofs and rears of four brick houses in White street, next to Broadway, are destroyed, and in Walker street the fire has extended from Broadway to the house of Mr. Peter Mackie. We hear that one man had his leg broken during the conflagration. It was stated also that a boy was killed.

The fire originated in Cram's distillery of spirituous liquors, which was entirely consumed.

From the Albany Daily Advertiser, of 21st inst.

## A MOST AWFUL AND DESOLATING FIRE AT TROY!

Yesterday, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a most awful and desolating fire broke out in the city of Troy, which has laid in ruins one-third of the fairest portion of that flourishing city. The number of buildings destroyed is about one hundred and twenty; among which are some of the best dwellings, and a great proportion of the largest and most substantial fire-proof stores and store houses. On River or Main street, all the stores and buildings of every kind, on the west side, and extending to the water's edge, from Gale's store to Dr. Corning's, both of which are saved; and on the east side from Congress street to, and including Parker's bookstore, are destroyed, as are all the buildings, except two, (the Troy bank & dwelling house,) on the west side of Front or Second street, to the same extent as on the side east of Main street; and the estimated loss is a *Million of Dollars*. It was about sunset when the news reached Albany; many of our citizens immediately went to the assistance of their unfortunate neighbours, and several of our engine companies, with their engines. It was near 11 o'clock before the fire was got under.

The following particulars have been politely furnished to us by a gentleman who was at the fire.

It commenced at Mr. Davis's stable and wood house, from a cook stove; spread in different directions both sides of River (or Main) street, and all but two houses burnt on the west side of Front (or Second) street, from Congress street to Titus' tavern.

*Property destroyed.*—Farmers' Bank, papers and books saved, except in the vault, which are supposed to be safe; Dr. Burritt's house, Lewis Lyman's house, owned by Mrs. Nott; Deacon Hart's two stores; Davis's store, and all he had, except furniture; Brinckerhoff's store; Adam's court's house, shop, and printing office; Stockwell's house and book-store; Eph. Morgan's store; Isaac Merritt's store; Townsend McCoun's store; Asa Anthony's store; Abraham Fellow's store; D. Meritt and Son's store; Richard P. Hart's store; Jacob Holmes' store; A & W. Kellow's store; E. Warrener & Co's store; Joseph Brinknell's store; Moore and Pitcher's store; Hart & Nasrow's store; J. M. Wells' store; B. Pierce & Co's store; Parker's store; Field's store; Dickins & Mitchell's office; Paine's office; and about half of all the lumber on the wharfs, and a small proportion of the goods only saved.

## DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 29.

We have at this moment before us a piece of *jacquard muslin*, of a fabric so perfect in every particular, that we may safely assert it to be equal in every respect, to any thing of the kind produced in any part of the world.

Familiar with the finest webs of Asia, we can confidently assert that the piece before us is equal, in beauty, evenness, and much superior in the finishing, to the fine mulls of Hindostan.

This piece is the first experiment made at the factory of Messrs. Thorp & Slidell, of this neighborhood, yet it will bear inspection and comparison with any foreign production of the same number of yards.

This jacquard rivals in beauty and texture the lawns of Flanders, and for cravats, ruffles, or fine dresses, has no superior; and we earnestly recommend the products of those ingenious manufacturers to the notice and patronage of every friend of American prosperity.

Why do our females—our mothers of families, and those rising into life, who are to be the parents of the next generation; why do our young females hold back their devotion to the interests and prosperity of their native land? Every nation that has been renowned for its virtues, has derived distinction from the example of its females; the Roman matrons and virgins were ever conspicuous in protecting, by their disinterestedness and patriotism, the glory and safety of their country.

The matrons of America, and the sex generally, whose influence so naturally sways mankind, could derive no honors so desirable, no joys more solid, than by consulting the interests and the honor of their country: the glory would be theirs, in giving the *virtue* of social *virtue*, and while so many are so honorably employed in protecting the deserted orphan, how much more noble would it be to *prevent poverty* by preferring domestic industry to that of strangers.

Messrs. Thorp and Slidell are not confined to this single article; their checks and shirtings are equally perfect.—*Aurora*.

*Horrid transaction.*—The Western Reserve Chronicle (printed at Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio,) gives a distressing account of the death of Philemon William and Cyrus, three only children of Mr. Zephaniah and Mrs. Lois Stone, of Kinsman, in that county, who were drowned by the hand of their mother! The circumstances are peculiar, and were communicated for publication by a clergyman. Mr. and Mrs. Stone possessed amiable dispositions, sustained unblemished characters, and had lived together in the utmost harmony. During a late revival of religion, Mrs. S. was awakened and supposed she had experienced a change of heart. Soon after, however, she settled down in a state of gloom, and declared that she had committed the unpardonable sin. Under this impression, and believing, that, if taken off at their present tender age, the children would be happy; and believing also, that having committed the unpardonable sin, no injury would follow to herself, while her husband was gone to meeting, on Sunday the 14th of May, she drowned the little innocents in a spring about 3 feet deep. Verdict of the coroner's inquest—drowned by the mother in a fit of insanity.

## DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.

On the 13th inst. as four lads were engaged in fishing in a pond in the west part of the town of Rensselaerville, called the Little Lake, Harry, the eldest son of Robert Bell, Esq. of the town of Bern, being at some distance from the rest, in a very small, unsafe canoe, unfortunately fell into the water, while attempting to assist his dog, which had swam to him, into the canoe. As he was unable to swim, he almost instantly sunk to the bottom, to rise no more. After a search of about eight hours, he was taken from a depth of about 25 feet. Thus a favorite youth of 16, in all the vigour of blooming health and strength, was hurried from time into eternity.—*N. Y. Statesman*.

*Remarkable Occurrence.*—On the 13th inst. a piece of land of upwards of five acres, lying on the east bank of Lake Champlain, in Orwell, nearly opposite a place called Negro Point, sank about 40 feet; and slid into the lake—throwing the bed of the lake up about ten feet above the surface of the water, for a distance in some places of about ten rods in width, and thirty in length. A number of men who were rafting near the place, were surprised by a sudden swell of the water, without knowing the cause of the phenomenon: but they soon perceived the ground settle and break up in various directions, and move towards the lake. The ground which is broken appears to be composed, at a small distance from the surface, principally of blue clay. A part of the land was covered with small trees of various kinds, some of which were torn up by the roots, and others moved in an erect position. The ground is much broken, and thrown up in large ridges in many directions. The land being much elevated, as you proceed from the water, caused it to move with greater force; and so sudden and powerful was its pressure against the water, that it occasioned it to rise nearly three feet on the opposite shore, which is about a mile and a half distant.—*National Standard*.

Really now—A mechanic in the north of England, has invented a machine for seminaries, which, by means of steam, not only warms the room, but *flogs all the boys on a graduated scale*.

## WESTERN SUN.

VINCENNES, JULY 29, 1820.

At a time when we see an aristocracy, with all the engines of their deadly influence, overwhelming the industrious with poverty, and supporting the idle sycophants in luxury and dissipation with what they fetch from the poor, we will not be silent. It is our duty to unmask villainy, and expose the impious features of fraud without a covering. This duty we have fearlessly performed, uninfluenced by any party, or private prejudices—and altho' factionists may grumble, hirelings may slander—sycophants may whine—and tyrants attempt to persecute, we neither fear nor regard them, but pity their weakness and folly, and despise their grovelling malice, and intriguing corruption.

For having exposed the infamous and flagrant abuse practised upon the people by bankers and their agents, we have at last been attacked by their chief advocate, who denies being what his conduct proves him to be, and attempts to excuse his conduct, by abusing us, and vociferating loud professions of his own worth, claims, &c. This attack was accompanied by a torrent of abuse and vulgar falsehoods in the *Centinel*, which consisted of neither argument nor reason, decency, nor candor. We are however willing to leave the editor of this herald of falsehood, and supporter of fraud, in the enjoyment of all the laurels he may win by his unfounded epithets and full protestations.—They would well adorn the brow of a fish-woman, or bully of a brothel. We will only notice two of his silly, and pitiful attempts at sophistry and detraction, and then drop him, as we would any other filthy matter, and proceed to examine the grand manifesto of his persecuted friend, whose claims to public favor are so warmly urged.

We stated, that there were men who had acted in support of banks, "whose heroism in the battles, and former services in the councils of our nation, will adorn the pages of history," when Capt. Blake's own folly, would sink him into obscurity. This, the whimsical editor of the *Centinel* has caught eagerly, and attempts using it in support of his cry of persecution, in order to raise up his favorite from the vale of "obscurity" into which he is fast descending. But we hope it will be observed, that while we are censuring the conduct of men, where we know they have acted wrong, we are willing to applaud them when we think they have done right.

But we would ask, if one of those gentlemen did distinguish himself in "the battles of our country;" if he did stand firm, and put down the strong workings of a base faction, who gloried in weakening and opposing their own government, "in times that tried men's souls," is he not the only one entitled to the respect his services then merited? He certainly is—this is his due, and we cheerfully give it to him.—But we are not willing to give it to another—Neither do we think his services then should tolerate even him or Capt. Blake, in supporting a faction of the same stamp now.—For it is a notorious fact, that when factions existed in Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri, who were striving to alienate the affections of the people from the general government, by their opposition, in consequence of banks and slavery, that this Capt. Blake introduced a resolution, calculated to arouse the feelings of the good people of this state, and array them also against the general government, merely because they had removed "an enormous bank fungus" from the office which the voice of every one except his particular parasites, declared him unworthy to fill.—Thus striving to form this state in a union of opposition with the others, and thereby revive the true old federal principles which had died a natural death, shortly after the rising of the Hartford Convention, in the old land of steady habits." But, says the editor of the *Centinel*, he is a *republican*! For ourselves, however, we do not believe him. In our own opinion, no man can be a *republican*, who will sacrifice the interests of his country, and constituents, by screening from investigation, a peculating band of fraudulent factious.

In the next place the editor of the *Centinel* attempts to stamp with the epithets of "foreigner" and "British federalist," all those who are opposed to bank frauds, and the agents and hirelings of those swindling combinations, and states that their opposition to the holy and benevolent institutions, "is only to cover their hatred to" Mr. Blake's "politics," which he declares are *republican*! Now we ask, what does a republican hate? *Aristocracies*. Who supported the banking aristocracies? Mr. Blake, and others from this and other districts. What do republicans oppose? Tyranny and oppression. What tyrannies over, oppresses and levies a tax upon our citizens of fifty per cent? The banking aristocratic incorporations. What will erelong throw all the wealth of our country into the hands of the few, and rivet the chains of poverty upon the many? The banks. If the people do not elect honest men of strict integrity, who will not be bought, to put them down. And Mr. Blake supports banks, and is a *republican*! while those who oppose them, are all "foreigners," and "British federalists."

Let the people cast a glance on this, and they will pierce the slimy, sophisticated veil, and discover that those infamous assertions are designed only to weaken the public confidence in our integrity, and in the correctness of the publications which have appeared in our paper, so that "bank agents" may again be elected from our district, and the

banks be enriched by another year's sharing.

None but a whimsical fool, or a base hireling, who had no other alternative, would have made such declarations.—The people will cry, away with such villainous scurrility—for it is no more consistent, than the editor of the *Centinel* is honorable, courageous, wise, candid, or worthy of further notice.

Now let us view the grand *manifesto*. The author of it well knowing the testimony against him was incontrovertible, his only resort is to sophistry, and by complaining of persecution, and boasting of his former merits and present claims, hopes to gain the favor of the people and again devour a part of their "loaves and fishes," and place the rest into the hands of his chieftains.

To excuse himself from having acted as a "bank agent," he states, "that the subject of banks was not the pivot on which turned the election of last year." That he had "heard nothing upon the subject, coming from any person in this district, except a few scurrilous publications in the *Western sun*," which it appears he did not read with much "interest." On his arrival at Corydon he heard the melancholy tidings, that a party was forming to "put down" the banks—and a few days after he had taken his seat, "Mr. Milroy introduced his resolution upon the subject of banks," which was "That the memorial of the citizens of Washington county be referred to a committee for the purpose of having them enquire into the situation of the banks in this state, and giving them the power to carry this object into effect." This he opposed as a tribute of "respect" to this excellency—and the voice of the independent citizens of Washington county was thus sacrificed, to the whim of paying a compliment to his excellency.

Now, if "the subject of banks was not the pivot on which turned the election of last year;" and if there had not been much complaint about them, except through the columns of the *Western Sun*; still, when this gentleman beheld a petition from the free and independent citizens of Washington county, praying to have the subject of banks enquired into, he might then know that there was some cause of complaint, and although he had not been particularly instructed, it was his duty, notwithstanding, he had not been elected by persons opposed to banks, to wave that particular reverence which he appears to entertain for his excellency, and pay due attention to the voice of the people. A republican would have done so.

Again, he says "I reflected much, and finally determined, that I would take a stand to defend the banks; not to defend them as a friend, but to shield them if possible, from acts of injustice." Now what was the great injustice of which he complains? Was it an act of injustice for the people to investigate the different subjects of complaint, which they had made known to their delegates? Would it have been an act of injustice to have passed a law to make the individual property of banker's liable for the payment of notes they have issued, and for which they have had a valuable consideration? If he "reflected much" we wonder he did not perceive the courtesy due the people, and the justice of securing their rights, as well as that of guarding the nefarious intrigues of those aristocratic nurseries of fraud, extravagance and dissipation, from exposure.

"Why" says he "should I have been an auxiliary to the party for destroying the banks, and pulling down into a pile of ruins, the fabric which the people themselves, had but a short time erected?" Now if the people erected the banks, they did not erect them for the exclusive benefit of a few individuals, or to be the instrument of pilfering from the industrious. No, but they expected them to pursue an honorable and honest course of conduct.—They did not expect the branches would discount largely, and not redeem their paper; while the mother bank would only issue and redeem sufficient to give the branch paper currency, and to answer the speculators for shaving:—They did not expect that the money of those banks would be suffered to depreciate, and inflict constant losses upon the community. "There was no evidence before us," says he, "of the abuse of their privileges, except general declarations." And now, we would ask, what was the intention of the resolution of Mr. Milroy? Was it to appoint a committee to enquire into the different subjects of complaint contained in the memorial of the citizens of Washington county? From this and his opposition to the resolution, that as "there was no evidence before" the legislature, of the villainy of those institutions, he was determined there should be none, and wanted therefore, to "take a stand to defend the banks," and "shield them if possible from" an investigation, which he styles "acts of injustice." He says, "it is admitted, I believe by all, that the tendency of the resolutions, alluded to, and the object of the men who moved them, was to blast the reputation of the banks; if so, should any such measures have been adopted, unless there were some, or strong evidence of guilt?" Mark his intrigue. After having used his best endeavors to prevent an investigation of the situation of banks, and the enormous barefaced, and constant frauds practised by them—after having attempted to divest the committee appointed to investigate these sources of complaint; and after having treated the petition of a large number of respectable citizens with ungracious neglect, he asks if any measure which would touch the reputation of what seems to be his favorite institutions, should "have been adopted, unless there was some or strong evidence of guilt?" The very great anxiety which this gentleman expressed, "to shield them from

an investigation, we hope will be sufficient to lay aside all delicacy or doubt in the minds of our next legislators, and cause them to act as republicans, by paying attention to the petitions of their fellow-citizens, and not omit defending their interests by following his courteous example.

He further observes, "that it is perhaps, worthy of remark, that inasmuch as the state bank was located among my constituents, it was probable that they had received accommodations to a very considerable amount. If then, the measure had been adopted, to compel them to make specie payments, or any other measure vitally effecting their interest or reputation, the banks would have been compelled to collect their debts," "and many a wretched citizen would have been able to tell you a mournful tale, about the sacrifice of his property."

Now, we will admit that the state bank was located among his constituents, and perhaps some few speculating favorites may have been accommodated with considerable sums; but let this gentleman recollect, that the people know, that the discounts of the mother bank, for a long time past, have scarcely amounted to sufficient to furnish gaming and spending money for its immediate supporters—that the branches alone have discounted, and that those branches are not "located among his constituents," and that if any of them got accommodated, they must have went to Corydon, Vevay, or Brookville, for it, unless it was when the mother would descend to the station of deputy, and issue branch paper here; and if those constituents did obtain an accommodation in branch paper, it was an accommodation by taking thirty per cent out of their pockets, which must continue to add to their distress, so long as the branches were not compelled to pay specie. But does not this excuse of his prove, that he was anxious to continue them, notwithstanding the evils they produced, for the mere purpose of benefiting a few who were dependent on them, and for fear of one man in perhaps one hundred, having his property sold, "for two thirds its value," his tender feelings compelled him to allow the branches and mother bank of our state, to issue money wherever they could obtain all the specie in our country, as well as all the bank paper which would pay for lands, and then say to the people—we will take good care of this for you—if you get it, you must go the shavers and give them 30 per cent—for if we let you have it otherwise, your merchants will carry it all away;—and in consequence of this guardian care, of those most excellent institutions, how many hundreds of our honest yeomen are compelled to forfeit their lands, *their all*—and after spending several years in preparing a home for their families, be plunged into all the miseries which poverty and want can inflict—and this too merely to favor bankers, and a few of their speculating debtors.

The law for preventing civil officers from being directors of banks, it appears he could not support, because it would affect some "individuals" and some "high in office under the state government." What more could he have said to convince every rational mind that his object was to screen those individuals so that a strong connection or union of influence might remain between some branches of the state government and the banking aristocracies. These things are dangerous—and republicans will look upon such conduct with an eye of distrust.

He could not support the bill for taxing bank stock, because, "the amount of the tax contemplated to be raised, would be inconsiderable to the state, but important to individuals." Here again his partiality towards those who are concerned in banks is conspicuous. Why should not a man pay a tax on bank stock for which he is receiving a dividend of considerable amount, as well as to pay it on his watch, which is merely a serviceable article of no great value, or be compelled to pay a poll tax of six days labor on the road? Why none but those who are wealthy, own bank stock, and of course it cannot effect any but them, and the poor would escape.

Notwithstanding petty associations were springing up almost throughout the state, and issuing paper trash purporting to be money, with which they are able to procure the valuable products of our soil,—and at the same time the issuing of this money was strictly in opposition to our constitution; this gentleman's solicitude for some of his particular friends, (some of whom we acknowledge as respectable men, but in a bad practice,) would not permit him to support a bill introduced for the purpose of passing a law to suppress such improper practices. This shews that he would rather see our constitution violated, and our citizens ruined, by an overwhelming emission of spurious money, than to act independently against the present interest of a certain class of men, who are determined "to reign over us" and "devour our substance."

The excuses which this gentleman offers, for voting against making "stockholders of bank liable in their private capacity" is novel. He goes into an argument to prove that a legislature has no right to repeal or alter the charter of a bank, unless there is an express reservation, and the charter of the bank has not been violated by the proprietors, "without their consent." Now if our legislators were all as fond of "shielding" banks "from acts of injustice" so far as to keep their transactions all in the dark, how would they ever obtain any testimony of "a violation" of the "charter" by "the proprietors?" They would never permit a committee to enquire into the conduct of bankers, and they would never hear to "general declarations" of the people—and therefore they could not act upon it, and of course those banking ar-