

SPRIT OF JEFFERSON.



CHARLESTOWN: Tuesday Morning, February 22, 1848.

FOR STATE SENATOR. Democratic Nominee. HIEROME I. OPIE, ESQ., OF JEFFERSON. Whig Nominee. JOHN S. GALLAHER, ESQ., OF FREDERICK.

OUR CANDIDATES. The approaching Senatorial election is confessedly one of interest and importance, deciding as it possibly may, the political complexion of our next Legislature, and the political character of our next Governor, which necessarily must decide the question, whether the General Government in its present patriotic efforts to maintain the rights of our Country are to be sustained by the Virginia Legislature—or our enemies indirectly receive "aid and comfort" by the withdrawal of that influence from it, which a Democratic Legislature alone can give.

It is of the highest importance that the Legislature of Virginia next winter should be Democratic, because a Governor is to be chosen. Are the Democratic party of this District willing that a Whig Governor shall be elected through the connivance of our party, and neglect to discharge our duty at the April election? Are they willing that a Whig Senator shall misrepresent this District for four years from the same cause, or from any supposed connexion they think exists between the general political affairs of the State, and the internal police of this county? Are they willing by their neglect to connive to co-operate with the Whigs in the present affairs of the Country? To co-operate with that party, (by neglecting to discharge their duty) whose whole policy now is to sow the seeds of dissension in our ranks, that they may reap the benefits, and then laugh at us—that party which has declared eternal hostility to every measure of the present Administration, and upon which we have declared over and over again, both in private and in public, the honor and interest of the Republic depended.

MR. GALLAHER'S LETTER. We are now engaged in a war, and we depend upon the Democratic masses of the country for our success, and our triumphant vindication as to its causes and objects. The accidental Whig majority in the lower House of Congress, is a strange every nerve, and using every means which treason can invent to defeat the Administration of our choice, and bring this to a dishonorable termination. So far they have steadily refused (because they had not done so) to grant money, or supplies of any kind, to aid the Administration in a war forced upon us, and for which, they say, they intend to hold the Executive responsible. We put the question to every Democrat in the District, is this the time for us to falter in our duty, to defeat our own party by our own supineness—to assist the Whigs, and thus disgrace our country? We know our party better. We know the material of which it is composed too well for this; our basis is principle—our object the glory of our country—let our aim be the defeat and discomfiture of our opponents—let every Democrat throughout this District do his whole duty, stand by his country—his principles and his party, and success, conclusive and glorious will attend our candidate.

STATE CONVENTION. The State Convention for the nomination of an Electoral Ticket for this State, will meet in Richmond on the 27th instant, and as it is desirable that there should be as full an attendance of members as possible, we trust that the Delegates elected from this, and the adjoining counties, or at least, a goodly portion of them will not fail to be on the spot. We subjoin lists of the delegates elected thereto, from the counties of Jefferson, Frederick, Berkeley and Clarke.

Delegates from Jefferson.—B F Washington, Joseph Smith, Samuel Cameron, Col. Robt. Lucas, John Wyson, A J O'Hannon, John Strider, H L Ope, R Parker, John Humphrey, C B Harding, G D Moore, G B Wager, J W Beller, Geo. Murphy. From Frederick.—R E Byrd, Hugh H Hite, John W Pifer, R M Sydney, W G Singleton, William Smith, A R Wood, John Fletcher, James Robinson, Jos. B Hackney, John Bruce, Robert I Baker, Jas. P Rieley, J H Carson, J Randolph Tucker, T T Fauntleroy, J C Bower, Franklin Thomas, Stephen D Timberlake, T P McCandless, John M Coyle, John Hart, Peter V Daniel, Jr., P N Nicholas, Robert G Scott, Wm. F Ritchie, and Bennett M Dewitt. From Clarke.—Jacob Isler, Thos. W McCormick, Nathaniel Burwell, Buchner Ashby, II Wheat, Dr. J H Fauntleroy, R Parker, Samuel Larne, J Alexander and Col. Edward B Jacobs. From Berkeley.—Dennis Murphy, John Blimie, John F Cunningham, John Zora, John Guin, P J Masseter, Amos Williamson, Lewis B Willis, John W Hollis, Thos. S Page, George Vanaker, Casper Stump, Robt. K Robinson, Samuel Stuckey, sr., and Wm. Miller.

PRECINCT MEETINGS. Our friends will bear in mind the Precinct Meetings, called through our last paper, for the purpose of appointing Delegates to meet in Convention at Charlestown, on Friday, 31 day of March, to nominate two suitable persons as Candidates for the next House of Delegates, from the County of Jefferson. The time of the Shepherdstown and Smithfield meetings is as follows: In Smithfield, at the Public School House, on Saturday next, 26th February, at 2 o'clock, P. M. In Shepherdstown, on the 26th, (Saturday next), at Joseph Zetter's Hotel, at 2 o'clock, P. M. The conveyer left Mexico for this place on the 14th.

THE PATRIOT AND POLITICIAN.

"Look on this Picture and then on that." But a short time after the present War with Mexico was declared by an almost unanimous Congress, to exist by the act of that Republic, and a general enthusiasm pervaded the whole country, at the glorious achievements of our arms—when from all parts of the country her gallant spirits, with a patriotism which none but freemen can feel, and actuated by the noble impulse of vindicating the honor and revenging the wrongs of our country, rose up at the call of that country and formed those noble bands who have astonished the world by the brilliancy and heroic valor of their achievements; it was then that Mr. Clay, being at New Orleans—the general focus and outlet of the country's enthusiasm, had occasion to address his fellow-citizens, and among other declarations in the following emphatic language—expressed the desire to occupy

"SOME GOOD CORNER IN THE ARMY, IN WHICH I MIGHT SERVE TO AVENGE THE WRONGS DONE TO MY COUNTRY, I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CAPTURE OR SLAY A MEXICAN." Here spoke the PATRIOT. Here was displayed the same spirit which actuated him to denounce as moral traitors the wiflers of their country and the opposers of the War of 1812, and to call upon the people in those strains of eloquence for which he is so celebrated, to come to the rescue and vindicate those glorious principles "free trade and sailor's rights," for which we then contended.

But mark the marvelous change. A Presidential election draws him. That same restless ambition which has ever marked the whole course of that gentleman, gets the better of his patriotism—the Patriot is merged in the Politician. Again he is called on, or rather seeks the opportunity, to address his countrymen. Our arms have been victorious in every battle—no page on history can show brighter deeds than have been enacted by our noble regulars and volunteers—the country's cheer and congratulation have gone after them on each hard fought field—we feel proud of them as Americans, who without distinction of party, can merge all political differences upon the altar of a common country. It is at this stage, we say, that Mr. Clay's voice is again heard. At Lexington his eloquent notes again peal upon the ears of an American audience. But for what? To vindicate his country from the foul aspersions of foreign hirelings and home wiflers? Alas! for the Patriot which animated him in his younger days to denounce as traitors the opponents of the last war, and prompted him in his old age to express the desire "to slay a Mexican," that it should be recorded otherwise. In his Lexington speech we are told that "THIS IS NO WAR OF DEFENCE, BUT UNNECESSARY AND OFFENSIVE AGGRESSION. IT IS MEXICO THAT IS DEFENDING HER FIRE-SIDES, HER CASTLES AND HER ALTEES, AND NOT WE."

Comment heretofore unnecessary, yet as this seems to be the rallying ground of the Whig party in the next canvass, we cheerfully meet the issues thus made. We have no fears of the result. The people at the ballot box will prove that this is a foul stigma upon our character as a nation, and bring down confusion upon the heads of those interested politicians, who for political purposes would thus seek to falsify the records of the nation.

MR. GALLAHER'S LETTER. We see by a letter in the last Free Press from JOHN S. GALLAHER, Esq., that he accepts the nomination tendered him by the Whig Senatorial Convention which assembled in this town on Thursday week, and is therefore again before the people of this District for re-election to the Senate of Virginia. If the Democracy of the District will come up to the polls on the day of election and do their duty, we predict for the Whig nominee a worse than "Waterloo defeat." Mr. Gallaher in his letter to the people of Frederick, Jefferson and Clarke, says he understands that he is assigned for his advocacy of the District Free School system, "for permitting a bill to pass authorizing a vote to be taken by the people themselves upon a measure demanded at the time by the memorials of thousands of my constituents in one county, and by the almost unanimous voice of the citizens of another." This is the first time we have ever heard that Mr. G. was arraigned for permitting the people to vote on a Free School bill. We rather think this is effort No. 2, manufactured in Richmond, to raise political capital to trade upon at home in the coming election. Many sensible and patriotic men think that Mr. G. should have had experience enough, considering the long lease he has had in the Va. Legislature, to have perfected a bill, which could have been construed by sensible Commissioners, and free from those defects which he "had no opportunity to amend." He need not have taken upon himself the responsibility of defeating what seemed to be the public will, especially as the Public will had not then been expressed, but he might, as a wise Senator, have assumed the responsibility of amending the bill in some of its "details," even if his skill was less than some of the "wiser men who object to the details" and not have deferred this responsibility of amending for a period of twelve months. We doubt not the people of this district will fully appreciate this cunningly devised electioneering letter, notwithstanding the "cloud of ignorance which is hovering over the people of Virginia."

OPINION OF THE MEXICAN PRESS.—Prospect of Peace.—The editor of the Arco Iris, in the Spanish side of that print, of the 24th ult., publishes a communication from Senor Pena Pensa to the Governor of Jalisco, in which the former functionary stigmatizes as false calumnies, the statement in a paper called the Bandera del Pueblo, that the Mexican Government was on the point of concluding a peace with the United States by sacrificing Chihuahua, New Mexico, part of the Sonora, and indeed granting all the Americans asked. This was in reply to a protest against such a peace by the Governor of Jalisco. The editor hereupon founds a belief that negotiations are going on with the American Government to conclude a peace, since in Pena Pensa's letter no denial is made of the fact—that is, of a negotiation having been instituted. He concludes a long article on the subject of peace, in which he firmly believes, with this emphatic paragraph:—"We could say much more on this question, but it appears useless, as we believe that two months will not elapse before we see realized the matter which is now announced."

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.—By letters from Mexico, dated the 10th instant, received to-day, we learn that it is stated that Peace is nearly consummated; and persons of veracity assert that it was probable the Government and authorities would very shortly return to the capital. The conveyer left Mexico for this place on the 14th.

THE NEW LOAN.—It was rumored in Wall-st., on Tuesday, that Mr. Belmont, an agent of the Rothschilds, has offered to take the sixteen million loan, on the terms proposed in Mr. Vinton's bill, and to pay one-half of the money in N. York, and the other half in Mexico.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

At the last term of the Circuit Superior Court for Frederick County, the Hon. I. R. Douglass decided in substance,—that, under the 7th section of the 5th Article of the Constitution of Virginia, the Executive of the State has the right to appoint and commission, of persons nominated for justice, a number less than the whole, and reject the balance. Thus, if five should be nominated, the Governor may, at his discretion, commission four or less, and reject or refuse to commission the balance. Also that a person appointed and commissioned a Justice of the Peace, may qualify by a single justice, provided it be done publicly in the Court House of his county, and on a Court day; and such qualification will be valid according to the Revised Code, 1 vol. chap. 71, sec. 3.

It was the first time, we are informed, that the question, as to the proper construction of the above cited clause of the Constitution, and probably also as to the proper manner of construing the aforesaid statute, ever came before the judiciary of the State; and, as may be readily supposed, it gave rise to much interest, and no little research. Both of the questions were elaborately argued before his Honor, and every thing that could be made to bear upon them was adduced. After the decision by the Circuit Court, the case was removed by proper means to the Court of Appeals; and that Court, consisting, at the time, of the Honns. Messrs. Cabell, Brooke and Allen, were pleased to learn, unanimously affirmed the decision of the Hon. I. R. Douglass as to both questions. Thus, by this decision of his Honor, we have the settled construction of the clause referred to of the Constitution, and also of the said statute. And we suppose now that the great Mandamus case of Frederick county, is finally disposed of; and that the justices of that county, so long kept out of their rights and privileges, will now be admitted to a full exercise of their powers, the arrogant assumption of power by former parties to the contrary notwithstanding.

GIVE MERIT ITS DUE. Whilst on a visit of pleasure—a wedding occasion, the nuptials of which appear in another column—a few days since, with a company of some fifty ladies and gentlemen, we had occasion to notice, particularly, the exceeding good taste and style observed by Capt. Abell, in the arrangements of his Hotel at Harpers-Ferry. The Dinner prepared for the occasion embraced the choicest dainties and luxuries, all served up in a style of surpassing elegance and all superabundant in manner, and we but repeat the sentiment of all when we speak of the lively satisfaction given. And being anxious to bestow merit where merit is due, we must give the meed of praise to his careful and assiduous superintendent over the culinary department of the house, Miss SARAH ANN BEALL, who in addition to this, we understand, manages the whole internal affairs of Capt. Abell's establishment—a matter of no little moment or responsibility. [Free Press.]

THE STATE CONVENTIONS. The Free Press says it is authorized to state that the Richmond and Potomac Rail Road Company intend to afford to delegates to the two Richmond Conventions, on the 23d and 28th, the advantage of return tickets, with the privilege to return within any reasonable period, if parties of not less than fifty shall present themselves to their agents at Washington, Fredericksburg, &c. We suppose the other Rail Road Companies will not be less liberal. It is expected that both Conventions will be largely attended.

SPEECH OF MR. THOMSON. The Speech of our Delegate, JOHN A. THOMSON, Esq., on the Resolution of Mr. Scott, (of Fauquier), providing for a re-appointment of representation in the General Assembly, will be given entire in our next paper. It is spoken of as an able and strong Constitutional argument, and though we may differ from our Representative as to his conclusions, yet we feel it our duty to afford to him a fair and impartial hearing.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that an election for School Commissioners will be held in each of the Districts of the county, on Saturday the 4th of March. HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS FROM MEXICO.—A Treaty of Peace Accepted.—The Baltimore Sun, says, we have received, by our overland express, some highly important intelligence from the seat of war, rendering it certain that a treaty of peace has been agreed upon. It also states that a copy of the treaty has been received by the Government.

EFFECTS OF THE STEAMER'S NEWS.—The news by the steamer Ibernia, which we published to-day, had no effect whatever upon the Baltimore market, and prices of all leading commodities remain unchanged from previous quotations. Howard st. flour was firm at \$5 62 1/2, with sales of 600 barrels, and City Mills continued to be held at 87 1/2 a 86, with no sales. Grain remained without change, small sales having been made at previous rates.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.—One of the Washington correspondents of the Baltimore Sun, under date of the 16th inst. says: To-day there will be assembled at the dinner table of President Polk, the following gentlemen: Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, John Bell, J. C. Crittenden, and some forty other representatives of all parties, from probably every State in the Union.

AN IMPORTANT RUMOR.—The Philadelphia Pennsylvania Inquirer has a letter in that city dated at Mexico on the 17th of January, which states that the order to the column under Gen. Patterson, to move upon San Luis Potosi, had been countermanded, owing to the assemblage of a force of Mexicans at Quantitan, twelve thousand strong. Gen. Cadwalader would, however, move on with his command in the design on the Pacific coast.

THE WICHTER AND SMITHFIELD TURNPIKES.—It is hoped the people interested in this extension will lose no time in getting up subscriptions. The completion of the Road will be of interest to both of the Turnpikes leading to the Potomac. From the large appropriations already made, there may be danger, if the opportunity is not now embraced, that another so favorable may not soon occur.

THE TRUE DOCTRINE.

The New York Express, a leading Whig paper, is far from being satisfied with the "hybrid" position in which General Taylor's friends place him—and in the following remarks betrays its horror of being again Taylorized. Certain it is, that unless we know more of General Taylor's opinions, he will receive the support of neither party, and never mount the political ladder. "Now that he is at home, and now that he is a President, it is his duty, as a candid man, by his own consent, to throw the shadow of a reason why he should not declare what he thinks, and speak out like an honest man. Moreover, as Whigs, we protest against entertaining any idea of smuggling a Whig President into the White House—a view that the Courier seems to entertain. If we cannot go there with the honors of war, with drums beating and banners flying, we will not enter into a Trojan Horse. An honorable banishment affords us all the sweets of a joyous consolation—but large expectations changed to bitter fruits; a battle fought and won, turning out to be more disastrous than a rout; the possession of the White House itself, with our enemies protecting and embracing the occupant—these are spectacles that once saddened our eyes and embittered the recollections of fifteen long years of labor; and with our senses upon us, we will never expose ourselves to such a bitter mortification again."

WEIGH TESTIMONY. We publish below an extract from a letter written by Capt. Charles Naylor, of the second Pennsylvania Regiment, and at present Governor of the National Palace in the City of Mexico. Mr. Naylor was for several years a member of Congress from the city of Philadelphia, and has always been a most decided Whig in his political sentiments. The extract from his letter speaks for itself. Read it and read it! "I believe there can be no peace. I have always believed this; and my belief is confirmed by the occurrences of every day. Let there be decision in the administration; and then let us have vigorous decision in the army. The Whigs are mad. I hang me head with humiliation and shame when I think that I have been a member of their party. Mr. Webster's speech has been republished here by the Mexicans, in every variety of form, as well as a synopsis of Mr. Clay's; and they have been made the foundation of appeals to the Mexican people, confining them to their decision—flattering their hopes that one of the great parties of our country will arrest the prosecution of the war, and putting off forever in my opinion, all prospects of an amicable settlement of it. It seems to me that the Whig leaders are guilty of the worst kind of treason. I have covered, here, that some of the articles, which had success in their publication—flattering their hopes that one of the great parties of our country will arrest the prosecution of the war, and putting off forever in my opinion, all prospects of an amicable settlement of it. It seems to me that the Whig leaders are guilty of the worst kind of treason. 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