

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1847

Congressional Convention

The Whigs of the Tenth Congressional District, composed of the counties of Frederick, Jefferson, Clarke, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Warren and Page, are hereby notified and informed, that a Whig Congressional Convention will be held in the town of Winchester, on Friday the 19th day of March instant, for the purpose of selecting a Candidate to represent this District in the next Congress of the United States: The counties interested, are requested to attend in person, or by proxy, in order that all may be represented, and the wishes of the Whigs of the District properly known.

POCKETED BILLS

The River & Harbor Appropriation Bill—The Irish Relief Bill

Packeting bills towards the close of a Congress, and pocketing them after they have passed both Houses, has become quite fashionable, since the days of Jackson, when he pocketed the "Distribution Bill," and took it with him in his retirement from the Presidential Chair. Mr. Polk, in imitation, pockets the late Harbor and Appropriation Bill which passed both Houses of Congress and sent it for confirmation or the exercise of that constitutional function, the denounced Veto. Mr. Polk did not feel disposed to approve the bill, and not wishing to raise the ire of the Western democracy, safely pocketed it in his breeches pocket. We are actually opposed to this miserable system which has been resorted to, in order to thwart the measures Congress may pass upon. If the President could not approve a bill, let him Veto it—send it back to Congress, so that that body may pass upon it, as is prescribed in the Constitution, and if two-thirds are favorable to the measure, suffer it to become a law of the land. This prerogative is exercised to a degree alarming to the cause of Republicanism—the crowned heads of Europe would scarce dare thus to thwart a bill which has been passed upon by the deliberative bodies of their country. Yet in this Republic the thing is done with the most daring impunity.

This is the day of Progressive Democracy—and a new order of pocketing a bill may be seen in the case of the five hundred thousand dollar appropriation for the relief of the sufferers in Ireland and Scotland. A bill for that purpose passed the Senate, and was sent to the House. It was pocketed in its progress by the President, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, composed of Mr. Lewis and three Whigs. The Whigs on the committee were ready and willing to report it at once to the House, but this did not suit the Loco committee. The Union had intimated that Mr. Polk would feel impelled to Veto the bill if it passed, and thus, probably through the privately expressed wish of the President, and because the rejection of it might prove disastrous to the party on election day,—the bill was kept smothered in the pocket of Gen. McKay, the Chairman of the Committee, and suffered to "sleep the sleep that knows no waking."

The Locofores have ever been loud in their professions of interest and love for the wretched Irishman, but let us hear no more of this now. Old Ireland is starving and famishing for food, yet they refuse, absolutely and charitably, to give them any substantial or practical proof of their benevolent professions of friendship and attachment.

STRENGTH OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President Polk must certainly feel very much mortified at the rejection of his little Tariff Bill, which he recommended in strong language. In urging its adoption, he says in his message of the 14th ult.,—"the public good, as well as a sense of my responsibility to our common constituents, in my judgment, imperiously demand that I should present to your enlightened consideration, and invoke favorable action upon them before the close of your present session." Such a strong recommendation as that sanctioned the defeat of the bill in a House where there is a Locofores majority of 60 or 70! A very cruel correspondent of the R. Whig suggested that he should tell his party that he invokes unfavorable action stand some chance!

But seriously, does not the President stand very low in the favor or affections of his party? The best way of testing or answering the question is by simply asking another—"would a Democratic Congress, with such an overwhelming majority, dared to have thwarted Gen. Jackson had he been in the chair, and urged in so strenuous a manner, the passage of that bill? We say not! Old Hickory would have cut the bond of union between them and their constituents, in the twinkling of an eye.

We have glanced at an Appeal to the People of Virginia, in behalf of the suffering of France, Scotland and Ireland—written by a Committee appointed for the purpose in Richmond. It speaks home to the feelings of every man—warms up his philanthropy—expands his benevolence—and teaches to afford assistance and succor, without enquiring the nation or creed of the distressed.

PROSECUTION OF GEN. WORTH—We are happy to learn, says the Washington Union, that Brigadier General Worth has, in consequence of his gallant services, been nominated and confirmed by the Senate, as major general, by brevet.

MR. POLK A CANDIDATE

It has been intimated before that Mr. Polk had a strong desire to become a candidate for a second term, though the strong desire on the part of his organ, the Washington Union, was sufficient to stagger the belief of many. But Mr. Brinkhoff of Ohio, "let the cat out of the bag" in his speech on the Lieutenant General question. He remarked, in substance, that it was unfair in the House, in their action, to compel the President to employ those who are his rivals, as the instruments of his will, in the prosecution of the war. His remarks were a virtual confession that Mr. Polk is a candidate, and his attempt afterwards, when the matter was charged upon him, to explain it away, only strengthened the conviction that he had made an honest, though it might be impolitic, confession of the desire of Mr. Polk. His argument was that Mr. Benton should supersede both Scott and Taylor in the command, because they were rivals in the President's way, and by passing the Lieut. General bill both would be overruled, and Mr. Benton elevated, who was in the confidence of the Executive.

MR. BEDINGER'S VOTE

Delegated in the House of Representatives, the House refusing to order the Committee to report the bill by a vote of 53 to 102. If it had passed it is understood that the President would have interposed his veto. On the question of refusing to order the Committee to report, we find the name of our Representative, the Hon. HENRY BEDINGER, in the negative—so that as far as we can judge, by his vote, Mr. Bedinger was opposed to granting the Relief proposed by Congress for the poor and starving in Ireland. We expect, however, that Mr. B. is prepared with a full supply of blarney instead of bread when he asks the friends of the Irish for their votes.

FREDERICK COUNTY MAGISTRATES

The last Winchester Republican notices to just terms a gross outrage that Governor Smith recently perpetrated in regard to commissioning certain Justices. It appears that all the magistrates of that county had been summoned and they recommended the name twenty two persons as Magistrates—and disclaiming the wish to make the County Court a battle ground for party, or allow politics in any way to be brought upon the bench of justice, they nominated about an equal number of Whigs and Democrats. Gov. Smith took it upon himself to commission only twelve, because "in his opinion it was a sufficient present addition to the Magistracy of the county." That Gov. Smith was influenced in this by his warm partisan feelings may be learned from the fact that he struck off all the Whigs except three, and one of these was probably mistaken for his brother, who is a Democrat.

This is a most daring attempt to create partisan Justices, and when that day arrives, when selections are made solely for their party connection, we may presciently judge, that the most sustained and logical prejudice, where we should have expected purity of character and high moral worth.

Alexandria Freights

We are indebted to Wm. A. HARRIS, Esq., of the firm of McVeigh, Bro. & Co. of Alexandria, for two barrels of very choice Oysters in the shell. We are pleased to see by the Canal Trade that this ancient city of the Old Dominion is drawing the trade of the upper part of our county, as indeed it should do of the entire Valley. And there are no dealers in Alexandria to whom we would recommend our friends more strongly, than the house of McVeigh, Brother & Co., whose arrangements are such as to supply Groceries, and other articles in their line, at as low rates as can be had in any of the Eastern markets.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL

The bill giving the guaranty of the State to \$300,000 worth of the Bonds of this Canal Company, so as to ensure the completion of the work to the Coal Mines, was passed in the House of Delegates by the decided vote of 67 to 69. This is a noble act on the part of the House towards the Potomac region, and will diffuse glad joy throughout that section of the State, if the Senate should give its sanction, as we believe it will.

Indeed, the act will not require the use of a dollar from the Treasury of the State. It is but a loan of the credit of the Commonwealth to the Company; and in doing this, scarcely any risk is run, for Maryland has waived all her claims in favor of the bonds of the Company, and all the resources of the work are pledged to the payment of principal and interest. The passage of the Resumption bill by Maryland has given new life to the measure; and the confidence of complete success is evinced in the fact that the Springs of Loudoun are willing to embark a million of their funds in this work, without other guaranty than the assurance of its speedy completion.—Rich Rep.

THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER

I would call the attention of all persons interested in the "Times Current," to the Daily Reports which now appear in the Clipper. Since the first of January last, there has been a decided improvement in this valuable penny sheet. The state of the markets in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, is correctly reported up to the hour of going to press. Any one desiring the earliest news of the markets in the East, could not subscribe for a better paper.

THE IRELAND BILL

The Locofores have in store on election day an abundance of blarney for the generous-souled Englishman. But now the Irish bread, something substantial, but which are still disposed to feed them blarney—they refuse to hear a motion receive the report of the Committee in House of Representatives, and abately adjourned without passing it. A bill was originally offered in the Senate by Mr. Crittenden, (a Whig) appropriating \$500,000 for the starving Irish, and received every Whig vote in that body except two. Here then is a practical demonstration of Locofores regard, and ever-faithful in the land can read that all his professions were as hollow and empty as sounding brass or the tinkling cymbal.

The Relief Subject

A list for the Relief of Ireland has been opened at the "Free Press Office," and those who are disposed to contribute can have an opportunity of doing so, either by subscribing money, flour, corn, or any other provision. Let those who are disposed to assist in the amelioration of suffering humanity come forward promptly, and give their mite into the public treasury. It is to be hoped that the citizens of Charleston and neighborhood will not be remiss in the discharge of a duty that should awaken in their breasts the kinder sensibilities of their nature. We trust that their benevolence will not find a terminus in words, but in glowing deeds, proclaimed by noble hearts. In the language of a stirring appeal recently issued from our own Capital—

"Shall we hear the cry and not answer it with large gifts of charity? Virginians! the great Giver of all good has blessed your land with abundance; and has thereby enabled you to imitate after man's futile fashion His own beneficence. Let it console you in your sorrow for Ireland, that you are afforded an opportunity for the noblest exercise of the best of the gifts. The sweetest relief to pangs of suffering is the benevolence that ministers in their midst. The brightness in the dismal scene around the pool of Bethesda was the Angel which stirred the waters. What lovelier shaft can Virginians now present than that of a ministering angel to Ireland? Let us do our full part and prove to the world that the land of Ireland is the land of benevolence."

THE VIRGINIA DELEGATION

The vote of the Virginia delegation upon the new proposition to degrade General Scott and Taylor, by placing Benton or some other Court favorite at the head of the army, was thus divided: For the Lieutenant General in disguise, Messrs. Atkinson, Bedinger, Brown, Hopkins, Johnson, Leake, McDowell and Treadwell. Against Messrs. Chapman, Hunter and Seddon. Messrs. Bayly, Dromgoole, Hubbard and Pendleton, absent. [The latter gentleman from indisposition—the others for reasons of which we are not apprized.]

Among the good things done by the Senate

Among the good things done by the Senate, was the prompt rejection of Charles Jared Ingersoll, as Minister to France, a place for which he was totally unfit and undeserving. The result is hailed with equal satisfaction by all parties. The Senate spent much of their last night, sitting with closed doors in the consideration of Executive nominations. Among the more important decisions were the following: The rejection of Charles J. Ingersoll, as Minister to France, and the subsequent nomination and confirmation of Ricardo Rod for the same appointment. The confirmation of David Tod, of Ohio, as Minister to Brazil, in the place of Henry A. Wise. The confirmation of George W. Hepburn, of Virginia, as Charge d'Affaires to Portugal, in the place of Abraham Reicher. The confirmation of John R. Clay, Charge d'Affaires to Peru. Also the confirmation of the following: Major General—Thomas Hart Benton, of Missouri, and William A. Rensselaer, of Pennsylvania. Brigadier General—George Cadwalader, of Pennsylvania, Enos D. Hopping, of New York, and Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire. Among the business transacted in Executive session of the Senate on Monday was the rejection of the nomination of Andrew B. Stewart as Commissioner of the Public Buildings, and the subsequent nomination and confirmation of Charles Douglas, of Connecticut, for the same office.

The Benton and Hannegan Affairs

After the "fare up" between Mr. Benton and Mr. Hannegan, in the Senate, on Tuesday, there was a recess. After the re-assembly of the Senate, the scene was renewed with more and bitter personalities. The Vice-President announced that the resolutions respecting the reporting of the proceedings of the Senate, was the first thing in order, as it was the last business the body was engaged in before the recess.

Mr. Benton objected to the decision of the Chair, and said the resolution was not in order. Mr. Hannegan observed that there was no motion made on the subject, before the recess, that he was aware of. Mr. Benton said the Senator from Arkansas would know what he was about. A. B. said this he looked daggers at Mr. Hannegan. The latter promptly replied that the Senator from Missouri had been in a condition all day not to know what he was about! He believed the declaration of Gen. Jackson was true, when he said the Senator from Missouri was—

Here order was cried all round the chamber, and the Vice President requested that order should be observed. Mr. Johnson of Md. rose to a point of order as to whether Mr. Hannegan was out of order, but withdrew it. Whereupon Mr. Benton repeated it, and insisted that Mr. Hannegan would write down the whole sentence that he had commenced uttering! Mr. Hannegan complied, and the paper was handed to the Secretary, who read it. Mr. Hannegan said he believed General Jackson was right, when he said the Senator from Missouri was very much injured by the bursting of the gun on board the Princeton, which had knocked his brains out! This set the Senate into a high state of excitement! The whole affair was ludicrous enough!

HON. Wm. LUCAS

This gentleman was not a candidate for nomination before the late Democratic Convention that met in Winchester, and nominated Mr. Bodinger. Notwithstanding this, however, Mr. Lucas received more votes, on balloting, than either of the other gentlemen, except the nominee—clearly manifesting that Mr. Lucas has a place in the affections of the people, which neither the influence of cliques nor the chicanery of leaders can eradicate. It is well known that with Mr. Lucas we have no affinity whatever, in the way of politics, but as a gentleman and good citizen we admire him.

Thus much we have been induced to say, because of the publication last week of the result of the balloting, from which the inference might be drawn that Mr. L. was a candidate, which was not the case—Those voting for him, we suppose, did so because they honored the man.

Pay Master at Harpers-Ferry

Col. EDWARD LUCAS has received the appointment of Pay Master at the U. S. Army at Harpers-Ferry, vice Richard Park, Esq. resigned.

Commonwealth's Attorney

We learn that Judge I. R. DOUGLASS of RICHARD PARKER, Esq., has been appointed Attorney for Frederick, Hampshire, and Morgan—vice J. M. Mason, Esq., U. S. Senator.

Supplemental Sub-Treasury Bill

The supplemental Sub-Treasury bill, which passed the House was killed in the Senate. Mr. Badger insisting upon the rule requiring bills to lie one day on the table, and the Senate acquiescing therein!

FREDERICK DELEGATES

We were in error last week in the publication of the Delegates selected at the Whig county meeting to attend the Congressional Convention at Winchester, on the 19th. The following are the gentlemen selected:—Winchester President—Robert V. Conrad, Joseph Tidball, Hugh Sidwell, Isaac Russell, Pughton—James Carter, William S. Lovett. Kentucky—William S. Green, William Baggett, Schrier—Benjamin W. Jefferson, James G. Gray. Maryland—Richard W. Barton, James Chipley. Middlesex—Walker M. Hite, John M. Miller. Russell's—Henry Richards, Elijah Pyfer.

Purchase of Lands at Harpers-Ferry

The resolution authorizing the purchase of additional lands for the use of the U. S. Army at Harpers-Ferry, is among those passed at the close of the Session of Congress.

DECLINATION OF MR. THOMPSON

It will be seen by the following letter that Wm. B. Thompson, Esq. declines being a candidate for re-election. He will be at home on

CONTRIBUTION AT HARPERS-FERRY

The citizens of Harpers-Ferry have contributed nearly Four Hundred Dollars, for the suffering and destitute of Ireland. We are proud of this and other similar manifestations in our county. Shepherdstown and Smithfield, have each eagerly seized the opportunity now afforded of restoring hope and joy to the heartbroken of those of the Emerald Isle.—They have acted worthily of their country and of the State which gave birth to Washington. Be not satisfied with what you have done! "Let the mothers of Jefferson contribute from their ample stores to feed the famishing mothers of Ireland. Let the fathers bestow a fair portion of their abundance to assist the famishing fathers of that Isle in feeding their starving families." "Cast your bread on the waters," and as the eloquent Prentiss observes, "if you are selfish enough to desire it, in many days it shall return to you."

RELIEF OF IRELAND

At a meeting of the citizens of Smithfield and vicinity, on Saturday the 6th instant, called for the purpose of expressing their sympathy at the distress and suffering condition of Ireland, and of devising means for the relief of the distressed, on motion of Mr. Thomas Lock, GEO. MURPHY, Esq. was called to the Chair, and ROBERT V. SHIRLEY, was appointed Secretary.

The object of the meeting having been explained by L. P. W. Balch, Esq. the following resolutions were unanimously adopted. Resolved, That the present condition of Ireland in its suffering and wretchedness demands our deepest sympathy and pity. Resolved, That Messrs. L. P. W. Balch, P. P. Dandridge, Meredith Helm, John F. Smith, Wm. Cameron, Wm. G. Hardesty, John G. Myers, Thos. Ovinger, John Greber, J. P. David, Rosenberger, Geo. L. Boltz and Bartholomew Shall be appointed a committee for the purpose of soliciting such contributions as may be given for the aforesaid purpose. Resolved, That Messrs. Wm. Grantham, David Rosenberger, John Chamberlain, Thomas Weston, Jr., and Lewis Fryak Co. be appointed a committee to receive such produce as may be contributed. The Rev. Joseph M. Atkinson being present, arose and in his usual eloquent strain addressed the meeting, in which he fully set forth the duty of us not only as Christians, but as citizens, to give of the great abundance which it had pleased an all-bountiful Creator to bestow upon us in relieving the distress of that ill-fated country, Ireland, whose sufferings cry aloud for it.

After which it was resolved that the meeting do now adjourn, to meet again on the last Saturday in this month, at 2 o'clock at the Union Church in this place. Resolved, That the Editors of the Charlestown papers be requested to publish the above in their papers. G. MURPHY, Chm. R. V. SHIRLEY, Secy.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAIL ROAD

The bill authorizing the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road Company to extend their Road to the Ohio River has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature. The proceedings in the Senate occupied three days upon motions to change the rates of terminal and to regulate the rates of freight and freight. Only one amendment was adopted, that offered Mr. Sloan, requiring that the Company shall charge "no higher rates for a portion, than for the whole distance of the Road." This amendment was supported by Messrs. Sloan, Gallaher, Bondurant, Wallace, Rogers, Willey, Garret, and Woolfolk, and opposed by Messrs. Parriott, Caperton, Stanard, Witcher, and McMullen.

Mr. Gallaher desired to make, and to amend more comprehensive, and to regulate the rate of charge East of Harpers-Ferry as well as West, but was ruled out.

On Thursday, the debate on this bill

was resumed by Mr. Caperton in opposition to Mr. Sloan's amendment. He was followed by Messrs. Parriott and Witcher in opposition, and Messrs. Stringer, Moore and Bondurant, in favor. The vote being taken, the amendment was agreed to—ayes 18, noes 10.

Mr. Rogers offered the following

amendment, protecting the Alexandria and "Be it further enacted, That this act, any part thereof, is on the express condition, that if a Railroad shall at any time hereafter be constructed from the town of Alexandria to connect with the said Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at or near Harpers-Ferry, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company shall, after the construction of such Railroad, be bound, if required so to do, to give and receive through tickets for all descriptions of travel in connection with the same between any point on the line of their Railroad west of Harpers-Ferry (not less than 75 miles by the line of the said Alexandria and Harpers-Ferry Road, within ten miles of the said town of Alexandria, at the same rates as for the portion of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Harpers-Ferry and such point west of the same, as may be charged for the whole distance between such point on the line of their Railroad and any point on the line of the said Alexandria and Harpers-Ferry Road, 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