



Virginia Free Press.
SATURDAY MORNING.
JANUARY 22, 1848.
THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT,
GEN. ZACH. TAYLOR.
THE WHIG MEETING.

The Whig Meeting on Monday last was very respectable in numbers, and the resolutions adopted give proof positive that no division shall exist among the Whigs of Jefferson on the question of the next Presidential election. The resolutions taken a high and patriotic course with reference to the Mexican War—they condemn the provoking of the war by the President, and are adverse to receiving indemnity. The Whigs of Jefferson, while they differ among themselves with regard to the policy of a National Convention, are willing to leave that question to be settled by the Whig State Convention, and they will present on that broken front against the Administration, but that decision what it may. There was a perfect harmonizing of the party on Monday, and all will acquiesce with a hearty response to whatever measures may be determined upon by the State Convention, should they, as is certainly calculated upon, be wise and politic.

THE DEMOCRATIC MEETING.
The proceedings of the Democracy of Jefferson will be found in another column. We ask a careful perusal of the resolutions passed, and if they are not too strong for the stomachs of moderate partisans then we will confess ourselves vastly mistaken with regard to the political appetites of the Democracy in this region. We designed a critical examination of the several points touched upon in the resolutions, but the crowded state of our columns precludes our doing so this week. It will be seen that the doctrine of **QUEST** is clearly proclaimed, in order the ease of indemnity. They resolved that in the inability of Mexico to satisfy our claims for indemnity, we are in favor of the **annexation and permanent occupation of such of our contiguous territory as the country may seem to require.** If this doctrine is right now, it must have been right in the late war with Great Britain, but we heard nothing at that time of its expediency for the past. This, however is the doctrine of a Progressive Democracy, and it is to be governed by the spirit and letter of the Resolutions of '36?

MR. STEWART'S SPEECH.
We have the special attention of both the friends and foes of the doctrine of Protection, to the lucid exposition of the Hon. Amos Stewart, in the House of Representatives. The speech appears to us to be a very reasonable request, to be informed of the **Instructions** under which Mr. Stillwell was sent to Mexico as Minister. The President refuses, on the claim of a **privilege** to answer a call made upon him by the House of Representatives to obtain information connected with our Foreign Relations. The question of the relative right of the President and the House of Representatives being now set for debate in the latter body, in their hands we willingly leave it. Not that we have any doubt of the right of either House to ask, or of the duty of the President to comply with what appears to us to be a very reasonable request, to be informed of the **Instructions** under which Mr. Stillwell was sent to Mexico as Minister. The opinion expressed by Mr. J. Q. Adams, on this question, carries great weight with us, in view of his experience. His position too, standing with one foot in the grave, precludes the suspicion of any interested view. The probability is that the House will insist on its call, and that the President will reiterate his refusal. There are persons who seem to think that articles of impeachment may follow. That, however, under any circumstances, is a desperate step, and, in the present state of parties in the Senate would be utterly useless.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.
The proceedings in both Houses of Congress during the past week, have attracted much attention. The discussions in the Senate on the bill to amend the laws relating to the release of the fugitive from the States, have been of a high order. In addition to Mr. P. have heard the names of Capt. Elmore L. Ople, Maj. A. O. Bannon of Mexico, has produced considerable excitement. The President refuses, on the claim of a **privilege** to answer a call made upon him by the House of Representatives to obtain information connected with our Foreign Relations. The question of the relative right of the President and the House of Representatives being now set for debate in the latter body, in their hands we willingly leave it. Not that we have any doubt of the right of either House to ask, or of the duty of the President to comply with what appears to us to be a very reasonable request, to be informed of the **Instructions** under which Mr. Stillwell was sent to Mexico as Minister. The opinion expressed by Mr. J. Q. Adams, on this question, carries great weight with us, in view of his experience. His position too, standing with one foot in the grave, precludes the suspicion of any interested view. The probability is that the House will insist on its call, and that the President will reiterate his refusal. There are persons who seem to think that articles of impeachment may follow. That, however, under any circumstances, is a desperate step, and, in the present state of parties in the Senate would be utterly useless.

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SENATORIAL CONVENTION.
The Whigs of this Senatorial District will hold a Convention in Charlottesville, on the 10th of February, (the other counties agreeing) for the purpose of nominating a candidate for this District. It will be seen that a recommendation to this effect passed the Whig Meeting on Monday last, and Delegates appointed.

NEGRO MAN LEWIS. who has been confined in our County Jail for some months past, charged with having set fire to the barn of Mr. John W. Young, near Shepherdstown, was brought to trial on Tuesday last, in the County Court. The following Magistrate completed the Court: Richard DuRoi, Dr. John O. Roper, Col. Braxton Davenport, Col. Thomas Hill, and Samuel W. Lackland. After a careful examination of the testimony, which occupied the attention of the Court the entire day, and part of the night, the negro was acquitted. We learn that four of the Magistrates were for his conviction, and one for his acquittal, which saved his life, as the penalty for such an offence is death. Subsequently, and in \$5,000 was exacted, to insure the good behavior of the negro—or, in other words, to insure his removal out of the State. Prosecuting Counsel—Messrs. Griggs, and Wm. Lucas, Esq.; For the Prisoner—Andrew Hunter, and Richard H. Lee, Esq.

SHENKERSVILLE LODGE, No. 61, I. O. O. F. will open in Shenkerville, on Saturday the 22d instant. Members in good standing in the Order are invited to attend.

THE WHIGS OF PHILADELPHIA have determined to have a "Boon Vista Festival" on the 22d next month, to be celebrated on the great beach and of the bank of the illustrious Washington.

MR. POLK'S somewhat like Napoleon in his conquest of Europe, for the purpose of conquering a universal peace throughout Europe, waged war against most of the thrones, spending millions of money and sacrificing human life by wholesale. Mr. Polk, in his anxious endeavors to conquer a peace in the Western Continent, has expended money in addition to the millions he has already spent, and for more money to add to the treasure of blood already spilling a foreign territory.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES have decided in favor of Mrs. Gaines, (wife of Gen. Ed. P. Gaines), in the celebrated case of Mrs. G., which has been so long pending. The decision establishes the legitimacy of Mrs. G., or the legality of the marriage of which she is the offspring, and gives her four-fifths of an estate, which is estimated as worth many millions of dollars—some say seventeen or twenty millions of dollars.

THE ESCORTS OF THE SOUTH and the Abolitionists of the North form a queer sort of coalition in their mutual abuse of Mr. Speaker Winthrop. One party accuse him of being subservient to slave interests, whilst the other charge him as being opposed to the South, and a most dangerous enemy to the slave interest.

GEN. TAYLOR has been nominated for the Presidency by the Whigs of Florida, and others friendly to his elevation, and measures taken to form a Taylor Electoral Ticket. They say that Gen. Taylor is the first choice of the people of Florida for President, and urge his election, not on the score of his military services alone, but because of "his qualifications and private virtues—the integrity, fidelity and Republican simplicity of his character—his mental vigor and firmness—and his devoted patriotism."

A military company styled the "Berkeley Guards," has recently been formed in Martinsburg, and the following officers elected: J. O. M. Nadenbousch, Captain; Samuel Alburis, 1st Lieutenant; John H. Likens, 2d; Thos. Hollis, 3d; and Geo. W. Rutherford, 4th. 1st Sergeant, Jas. H. Chambers; 2d, John Rutherford; 3d, Nathan Peyton; 4th, John Brannon.

RICHARD PARKER, Esq. of this town, is recommended as a candidate of the Locooco party for State Senator, in the Winchester Virginia District, in the next election in Charleston.

RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.
The bill enlarging the Lunatic Asylum of the State was passed.

THE BILL ENLARGING THE LUNATIC ASYLUM OF THE STATE was passed. Also a bill incorporating the Thornton's Gap Turnpike Company, and a bill to amend an act relating to the completion of the South-western Road to the Tennessee line.

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MARRIED.
On Thursday the 6th instant, by the Rev. E. G. Gorman, Mr. Joseph L. Ratus to Miss Mary E. Gorman—both of Leesburg.

MARRIED.
On Thursday the 6th instant, by the Rev. T. D. Kirby, Mr. Moses Lusk to Miss Margaret V. Beards—both of Loudoun.

MARRIED.
On Tuesday, 11th instant, by the Rev. George A. M. Jones, Wm. W. Adams to Miss Anna S. Adams—both of Leesburg.

MARRIED.
On the 11th inst., Mr. Corcoran, W. Corcoran, Esq., of the City of Washington, to Miss Ann, daughter of the Hon. John Taylor, of Frederickburg, Va.

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BEING about to reduce my farming operations, I will offer for sale, at the Richmond Farm, on Thursday the 23d of February, 1848, if fair—if not, the next fair—a parcel of my stock, consisting of:

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Clever Hauling Machine.
THESE indispensable hauling machines, one of which is very important, will, in a short time, have two or three in addition set up, and be ready to HULL SEED for the Farmers of Jefferson County. This Machine is considered a moderate rate for four horses, and will haul

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