

THE FLOO.

EDITED BY DUFF GREEN.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1840.

FOR PRESIDENT.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.
JOHN TYLER.

THE WAGES OF LABOR.—We invite the attention of the reader, especially of the laboring man, to the extract which we give below from the Lancaster Intelligencer. That paper is the special advocate of Mr. Buchanan. It is published at his residence in Pennsylvania; the editor is in his confidence; ready at all times to defend him against all and every imputation, and yet he argues that the laboring man is benefited by the reduction of prices. We give the extract entire, and ask the reader to remember that he gives the same interpretation to Mr. Buchanan's speech that Mr. Davis did—that this Editor's known attachment to Mr. Buchanan is such that no one can suppose he misrepresents either the motive of the speaker or the speech itself.—It is here admitted that the purpose of the war upon the banks is to reduce prices; and the argument is that although wages are reduced 40 per cent, the laboring man is benefited, by that reduction because flour may be purchased at 50 per cent.

It appears to us that Mr. Buchanan and his advocate are both wide of the mark. If it be true that wages are reduced but 40 per cent, it is no less true that labor is idle for want of employment—the loss to the country is in the suspension of labor. It is not so much low wages, as the want of employment of which the whole country complains.

If we take the average price of wages at one dollar per day, and estimate the effect of the suspension of labor, for want of profitable employment, we will then see why it is that every man feels the hardness of the times.

If we estimate our population at sixteen millions, and assume that one-eighth part are laborers, and that in consequence of the derangement of the currency and the war upon credit, one-half of these get but half employment, the result will then be as follows: one-eighth of sixteen is two millions; if one-half of these are employed but one-half their time; or if one million of laborers lose one-half of their time for want of employment, it follows that one million of the sixteen lose, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLIONS per annum. This has now run through three years of Mr. Van Buren's term. It is only necessary to apply this same rule of calculation to the other branches of industry and to multiply the product by the seven years of Mr. Van Buren's administration to show what will be the cost of his measures. We will not venture to give the results; they will startle the most incredulous; and yet the premises and the conclusions are irresistible.

The Editor of the Intelligencer would reconcile the mechanic and day laborer by comparing the prices of bread-stuffs with the price of labor, and we are told that the administration deserves the confidence of the laboring man because, although, it is true that wages are reduced 40 per cent, bread-stuffs are reduced 50 per cent; overlooking the important fact that the consequence of this war upon the public and private credit of the country, is the arrest of public and private improvements,—and that a large proportion of the labor that would have been otherwise employed, and thus have been the consumers of bread-stuffs, are compelled, for want of employment, to cultivate the soil, and by over-production to reduce the price of provisions without creating the means of consuming the products of the labor of the mechanic class.

Thus in prosperous times, men build houses. This gives employment to the laborer, the stone cutter, the brick maker, the bricklayer, the plasterer, the carpenter, the lumber merchant, the hardware merchant, the iron master, the nail maker, the sawyer, the lime burner, the wood chopper; and the list might be greatly, greatly increased.

What is true in relation to building is equally applicable to all other departments of labor.—Each of the mechanic arts gives employment to many who do not belong to that art. Take for example the printer. He gives employment to the merchant, the mechanic who builds the houses, the machinery, the paper maker, the women and children who handle the paper in its passage from the rags into pure white paper; then the type founder, the miner, the smelter, the news carrier, &c. &c. We take these illustrations at random, and they might be carried much farther, showing how intimately society is interwoven, and how much we are dependent upon each other, and that the true secret of prosperity is constant and profitable employment. The war of the administration on credit dries up the sources of employment, and robs the industrious poor of the means of earning bread even at the reduced prices.

But there is another and most important branch of this subject which must strike home to the bosom of every feeling man. Who can calmly look on and see the misery, the wretchedness which must follow in the train of such measures—"Satin finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." Look into the dwellings where vice, drunkenness and squalid misery have driven

content, cheerfulness and love from the humble roof; and the tears of suffering woman appeals, to the heart of every patriot, and of every Christian. Her language is "give employment to my husband, that he may be, as he once was the father of my children."

But we again ask the reader to pause and consider well the following extract from the Lancaster Intelligencer.

TABLE OF PRICES,
As compared with those of 1836.

| | 1840. | 1836. |
|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Joiners, per diem, | \$1.25 | 2 00 |
| Bricklayers, " | 1.50 | 2 00 |
| Stone Cutters, " | 1.50 | 2 50 |
| Stone masons, " | 1.25 | 1 75 |
| Plasterers, " | 1.88 | 2 00 |
| Laborers, " | .67 | 1 00 |

\$7 55 \$11 25

We have repeated it over and over, that the federal party, or as they call themselves; the "Whigs," in all their gratuitous candor and zeal in favor of the laboring classes, go upon the principle that the Mechanic and the Laborer are IGNORANT, and that they can be affected by the most palpable and baseless stories. We refer to the article above quoted for the proof. We ask them to read it, and if they do not come to the same conclusion, then, we confess we have overrated their intelligence and honesty.

It will be observed that the above clap-trap is a table contrasting the prices of labor between the years 1836 and 1840, which shows a reduction of 40 per cent. at the present day of these prices when compared with those of 1836. Now why do not these gentlemen of silk-stocking and bank-note memory, give us the contrast between the prices of the necessities of life during the same period? Because THEY DARE NOT; knowing that the laboring man would see through their miserable deception, and hence, to blind his eyes, and to arouse his suspicions, they very coolly take only the prices of labor for their criterion, and while they show a reduction of 40 per cent, they most cunningly charge it to the administration of Martin Van Buren. Let us see whether, with the truth before us, we cannot place this plain question in its ungarished aspect.

We have now before us a table of the prices of Flour—the standard by which every thing else is judged—by which it appears, Flour commanded, in 1836, the enormous price of ELEVEN DOLLARS THE BARREL!! Flour is now selling, and very dull at that, at Four Dollars the barrel; and during a debate in the Senate, the other day, we heard Mr. Williams, the opposition Senator from Allegheny, declare repeatedly that Flour was then selling in Pittsburg at Two Dollars and a half the barrel! Compare these statements and mark the difference.—While the difference between the prices of labor for the same per cent, is according to the statement of the Federalists themselves only forty per cent., the difference in THE PRICE OF FLOUR IS EXACTLY SEVENTY PER CENT!! Here then is our old position, ratified, confirmed and strengthened by a statement which defies controversy. It places the federalists in their proper position—as deliberate falsifiers of the truth, as hypocrites, and, in this case, as they have always been, AS THE ENEMIES OF THE POOR MAN, OF THE LABORER AND THE MECHANIC, whom they endeavor to deceive by the implication that they are ignorant and credulous! It shows the virtue of Bank suspensions and expansions.

So much for the "high prices" of the whigs, and so much for the "low prices" which the democrats are charged with advocating, when they advocate an equal currency, and, as a consequence, an equality of prices from one end of the year to the other, in preference to the Bank expansions which have disgraced our country and plundered our people. Under the "high prices" of 1836, the mechanic who got two dollars per day, (or twelve dollars per week,) had only money enough at the end of the week, to purchase a barrel of Flour!—While, under the "low prices" of the present day, with his dollar and a quarter per day, (or seven dollars and fifty cents per week) he can purchase nearly two barrels of flour, at the end of the week, at its highest price! Surely this is too plain a question to need further explanation. We shall not insult our readers among the mechanics and laborers by pursuing this portion of it any further. They have always been the friends of Democratic liberal principles, and has always battled for the greatest good of the greatest number.—They cannot now be changed from their ancient political faith by their old enemy—the author of banks, bank suspensions, bank contractions and bank expansions. He has deceived them too often to affect them now.

We invite an attentive perusal of the very interesting letter of our able Washington Correspondent. It has seldom happened in the history of any country that so great an outrage has been perpetrated as that of which he speaks, and we confess that we are astounded at seeing in the Globe, an official promulgation of this fraudulent speculation on the poor Senecas. And this is the administration who would persuade the people that they would arrest speculation. An administration, which by the grossest usurpation has consummated a fraud upon the Indians, by which they are driven from the homes of their fathers, and by which the people of the United States are defrauded of \$400,000 in cash and of 1,800,000 acres of land. This charge rests on the authority of Mr. Sevier, a devoted partisan of the administration, but whose generous indignation revolted at the fraud and corruption.

The cashier of the bank of Virginia has absconded and is a defaulter to the amount \$500,000. The bank has offered a reward of \$5000 for his apprehension.

Mr. Leigh has called a meeting of the Whig Central Committee of Virginia, that they may reply to the charge that General Harrison is an abolitionist, issued in an address of the Van Buren party of Virginia.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

On our first page we give the report of the Chief Engineer, showing a loss to the state by the suspension of the work on this canal of about one million of dollars in the prosecution of the work, if to this be added the loss of boats, and what is more, the loss of the business and trade in the canal. It will be found that the injury to the state will be millions.

Below we give the reply of the Governor to a committee of the people of Allegheny, requesting a called session of the Legislature. The matters involved are of such weighty importance, that they should be treated with candor and liberality, and we should approach them with a fixed determination to rise above all considerations of party.

ANNAPOLIS, April 7th, 1840.

Gentlemen—Your memorial, in behalf of a public meeting held in Allegheny County requesting me to convene the Legislature "for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of granting immediate aid to the canal," has been received and carefully considered.

In relation to the adjournment and meeting of the legislature, the constitution of Maryland provides, "that the senate and delegates may adjourn themselves respectively, but if the two houses should not agree on the same time, but adjourn on different days, then the governor shall appoint and notify one of those days or some day between, and the assembly shall then meet and be held accordingly; and he shall, if necessary, by advice of the council, call them before the time to which they shall in any manner be adjourned, on giving not less than ten days' notice thereof."

My opinion has always been, that the power of calling the Legislature together ought not to be exercised by the Executive, unless in the case of some great emergency which may arise during the recess: During the recent session, the Legislature had the question of granting aid to the canal, fully under consideration; and immediately before the adjournment decided against it, without making provision, or expressing a wish, for an earlier meeting than the time fixed by the constitution. This decision was made under a knowledge of all the circumstances connected with the subject, and of the consequences that were likely to ensue from the suspension of the work.

The probability is, that a majority of the members who were absent when the question was taken, would have voted against it, and that if an extra session were now called, the result would be the same. I have not heard that any members who were opposed to the canal bill, have changed their opinions or expressed a wish to meet again for the purpose of changing their votes. While an extra session, therefore, would be likely to afford relief to the canal company, it would be objectionable on the ground of serious inconvenience to the members, and of considerable expense to the State. In addition to these reasons, I think it would be disrespectful to the members of the Legislature to call them together for the purpose of requesting them to reconsider their votes; especially in a case, in which none of them had intimated a change of opinion, and when there was reason to believe that a large majority of the people would disapprove of such a proceeding on the part of the Executive.

Entertaining these views, which have been carefully and deliberately formed, it is impossible for me to comply with the request of the citizens of Allegheny, for whose disappointment I feel a deep concern, and whose wishes it would give me pleasure to gratify, if it were in my power.

I remain very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. GRASON.

To S. M. Semmes, C. M. Thurston, T. J. McCaig, H. M. Pettit, Wm. Taylor, Committee of a public meeting in Allegheny.

OHIO.

Harrison and Tyler Electoral Ticket for Ohio.

William R. Putnam, of Washington county.
Reazin Beall, of Wayne county.

District Electors.

- 1st Dist. Alexander Mayhew, of Hamilton county.
- 2d " Henry Harter, of Preble county.
- 3d " Aurora Stafford, of Wood county.
- 4th " Jousha Collett, of Warren county.
- 5th " Abram Miley, of Clermont county.
- 6th " Samuel F. Vinton, of Gallia county.
- 7th " John J. Vanmeter, of Pike county.
- 8th " Aquilla Toland, of Madison county.
- 9th " Perley B. Johason, of Morgan county.
- 10th " John Dukes, of Hancock county.
- 11th " Otho Brashear, of Guernsey county.
- 12th " James Rague, of Muskingum co.
- 13th " Chris. S. Miller, of Coshocton co.
- 14th " John Carey, of Crawford county.
- 15th " David King, of Medina county.
- 16th " Storm Rosa, of Geauga county.
- 17th " John Batty, of Carroll county.
- 18th " John Augustine, of Stark county.
- 19th " John Jamison, of Harrison county.

CROSS CUT CANAL.—A boat having passed over the summit, on the 3d inst. the Cross Cut Canal, uniting the Ohio and Pennsylvania systems of improvement, may be said to be completed. The water communication from Cleveland, through the heart of the agricultural district of Ohio, to Pittsburg, is thus opened. And from Pittsburg, there is a continuous line of improvement by Canal and Railroad to Philadelphia and Baltimore. In a few days the lines from Columbia, to each of these cities, will be in complete operation, and thus will the rich products of the West possess the advantage of a choice of markets. The distance is a trifle in favor of Baltimore, so that other things alike, we may be sure that our City of Monuments will come in for a full share of this valuable and rapidly growing commerce.—*Pa.riot.*

A melancholy commentary upon the "experiments" and experimenters is furnished by a paper published at Raymond, (Miss.), of the 11th of March, now lying before us. Its whole space of four pages is filled and crammed with advertisements of Sheriff's Sales, to the exclusion of every thing else, except a few lines announcing two candidates for state offices.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, 8th April, 1840.

There is much that transpires in the Capital with which those only who are on the ground can be acquainted; and it is well known here that during a recent discussion in secret session of the Senate, upon the Seneca Treaty, very severe re-eminations passed between some of the members of that body. There is a speech published in the Globe of Saturday, the 4th of April, which was delivered by Mr. Sevier, in Executive session on the discussion of the Treaty. Mr. Sevier is chairman of the committee on Indian Affairs, and a firm adherent of the administration; but so glaring was the outrage about to be committed by the ratification of the treaty, that this Senator threw aside his devotion to party, and most ably exposed the whole transaction. In his own words, he "unravelled the mystery," and declared it to be "a curious piece of intrigue and history, which should never be forgotten, as it might be of some service to the country hereafter." I propose to make free with his speech, and to give you in as condensed a manner as possible, the principal points in the case, from which I hope your readers will be able to form some idea of the consistency of that administration, which after having prostrated the nation, and infused distress and misery into every pore, mock at our condition and insult us with the allegation that it is all owing to speculation and over-trading by the people. What is the fact with regard to the proposed treaty. It has been begot and fostered by speculation alone; the whole object has been to lend the influence, the means and the money of the people, to aid a private company, in their system of fraud and bribery, for the purpose of accomplishing a grand scheme of speculation. The object has, however, failed. The Executive, with all his power and patronage, has not been able to delude and compel a constitutional majority of the Senate to ratify this nefarious treaty. So far it has failed, but the outrage on the part of the Executive in the bare attempt to impose such a treaty a third time upon the nation, is no less glaring; and when I inform you, that notwithstanding a constitutional majority of the Senate refused to ratify the treaty, it is firmly believed that the President will consummate the fraud by his promulgation (which he has power to do by resolution of the Senate of June, 1838,) you will understand something of that functionary's regard for individual and vested rights. General Harrison has negotiated more treaties with the Indians than any man living, and I challenge any one to point out a single instance, in which speculation has entered or could have entered into any one of them. The sole object and result of all the treaties negotiated by him, have been, for valuable consideration, and for the welfare of the Indian, to extinguish the title to their reservations. It is equally notorious, that the treaties made with the Indians, during the past and the present administration, have been dictated by the spirit of speculation, and in every instance, that spirit has entered into the negotiations, and been nurtured and invigorated by the influence, the agency and the means of the government.

But to Mr. Sevier's speech: For the last two years, with the parties interested, the treaty before the Senate had been a subject of intense interest and importance. On the one side, a large majority of the Seneca tribe had repeatedly appealed to the President, to the Secretary of War, to the Senate, and to individual Senators, earnestly imploring a rejection of the treaty; and by a census of the tribe, it had been ascertained that not only a majority of the chiefs, but also, about fourteen-fifteenths of the population were opposed to it. On the other hand the citizens of New York, and especially those residing about Buffalo, had brought forward their memorials which were aided by the influence of lobby members and ambassadors, both Indians and white men, for the purpose of urging the treaty through the Senate. Besides these two immediate parties, the State of Massachusetts was also represented, as having a particular and identical interest in the result.

Having thus stated the parties to the case, the Senator enters into a detailed history of the affair from 1786 to the present time, in which he shows the relationship of the parties each to the other, the interests of the conflicting parties, the deep laid scheme of speculation which was thus calling the government to its aid, and various devices by means of fraud and bribery, that had been made use of, to accomplish the object of an overgrown land company.

"Prior to 1786, (says Mr. Sevier,) Massachusetts claimed as properly belonging to her, a portion of the State of New York. This claim New York contested; and as we learn from the public journals of the day, it was not finally settled until 1786. This dispute was then settled by Massachusetts ceding to New York all her right and title to the government, sovereignty and jurisdiction over the disputed territory; in consideration of which New York ceded to Massachusetts, and to her grantees, and to the heirs and assigns of her grantees, the right of pre-emption of the soil of the native Indians to the territory described in the compromise. The native Indians occupying the territory to which Massachusetts thus acquired the right of pre-emption, was then as now, the Tuscaroras and Senecas, of New York.—Massachusetts also acquired by this compromise the right to hold treaties and conferences with these Indians, relative to a purchase of their lands, together with the privilege of selling such pre-emption right to any person whatever. In 1791, the State of Massachusetts sold this right of pre-emption, to the Holland Land Company, and that company to David Ogden, and Ogden to the present claimants. The present claimants are therefore the grantees of the State of Massachusetts, and although Mr. Sevier has not been able to lay his hands upon the contract between that State and her grantees, he infers, from the interest invariably manifested by Massachusetts, and from her constantly employing an agent to attend at every sale of these lands, that she is bound thereby to perform her superintendency on such occasions.

By the treaty of 1794, made with the six nations of New York, the United States "acknowledged separately to each of the tribes composing the six nations their individual right and title to certain specific reservations of land; and guaranteed to them separately the possession and enjoyment of their respective reservations, with the right to dispose of them as they pleased, &c.—for which rights, the Indians on their part, engaged in the same treaty, never to set up any claim to any other lands in the boundaries of any United States, than those granted in that treaty."

This was the last treaty made with them, and from that time to 1838, a period of more than forty years, the Senecas under that treaty, have disposed of their lands as they chose. Every sale thus made, has been free and voluntary, and under the guardian care only of the United States, on the one hand, and the agent of Massachusetts on the other.

Having thus shown the ample power possessed by the Indians to dispose of their New

York reservations, the Senator proceeds to enquire, why the government is now called upon to interfere with them.

In 1818, two small bands of New York Indians obtained from Mr. Monroe, then President of the United States, permission to purchase, with their own means, and on their own account, a portion of the lands of the Menomonees of Green Bay. The grantees of the State of Massachusetts were at the bottom of this manœuvre. Under the authority of the United States, thus obtained, as it was supposed, by the permission of the President, these two small tribes, as they alleged, made a purchase, for which they state they paid \$12,000. Evidence of the purchase, however, is not to be found, and has been strenuously denied by the Indians. A controversy arose between the parties concerning it, which was afterwards settled by a treaty between the Menomonees and the United States, in 1832. The two bands had removed to Green Bay, and as the title was controverted, the United States was called in to give them "undisputed possession," and accordingly bought out the Menomonees, and gave the alleged purchasers the land.—And not the land alone; for says Mr. Sevier, "We have given them, besides the lands they claim that they have purchased of the Menomonees for their \$12,000, the sum of \$40,000: \$5000 to the St. Regis tribe, and \$35,000 to the Oneidas, as a remuneration to them for their purchase of, and removal to the Green Bay Lands under Mr. Monroe's permission." It is thus clearly shown, that the United States were first fraudulently drawn into an Indian controversy by the Land Company, in order to settle which the nation "had to buy lands, and advance thousands of dollars, as remuneration, (as it is falsely called) to these New York Indians, and all without the pretext of an obligation or consideration on our part."

The treaty of 1832, before alluded to, and which settled the controversy about the Green Bay Lands, next claims the attention of the Senator. He alleges that it was made, so far as he can perceive, without any other consideration, than the wishes of New York and the Land Company. By it, the United States obtained, "for the sum of \$90,000, 500,000 acres of land, near Green Bay, for the future residence, not only of those small bands who emigrated under Mr. Monroe's permission, but for all the New York Indians, then residing in New York." That State was desirous of removing an Indian population from her territories, at the expense of the government, and the Land Company calculated upon obtaining their New York Lands, for little or nothing on their part, and mainly, but directly, at the expense of the United States; and hence, the New York Indians, although so deeply interested, were not parties to the Treaty. "And why," asks Mr. Sevier, "were they not parties to it?" Because, by the treaty of 1794, they had engaged to claim no other lands in the United States, than that particularly described in that treaty. In the treaty of 1832, the Menomonees disclaim any right of the New York Indians to the Green Bay Lands; and in the printed documents before the Senate, the Senecas declare that "the Senecas have no right or title to that country, (Green Bay,) as we have never accepted or paid for any interest there, nor do we at this time have any claim to that country whatever." On the contrary, Mr. Sevier states that he had the night before received a letter, informing him that the Senecas were then holding a council for the purpose of re-transferring to the United States the gratuity which, without their knowledge or consent, had been given to them in 1832. By the treaty of that year, they were required, without their knowledge or consent, to remove within three years thereafter, to the land which had been purchased for them at Green Bay, otherwise their title thereto would be forfeited, and the lands revert to the United States.—They did not remove, however, much to the annoyance of the Land Company, and they have not yet gone. "They considered they had comfortable homes in New York, and that they determined to remain." It was therefore found necessary for the purposes of the Company, that the time for their removal should be extended; and the Senator (says the Senator,) "like a nose of wax, permitted themselves to be twisted about by this Company, and accordingly a modification of the treaty was obtained, so as to leave the time for their removal to the discretion of the President of the United States." Although eight years have since elapsed, the President has not required their removal, nor exacted, as he should have done, a forfeiture of the land, to which the United States is clearly entitled.

Thus the matter stood from 1832 to 1837.—The 500,000 acres at Green Bay which had been so generously purchased for the New York Indians, and to which they were so kindly requested to remove, still remained in statu quo,—and the Indians rested content with their old hunting grounds and firesides. The aged said "let the young go to the new country, beyond the great river, if they wish, but we are too old to begin new establishments; we had rather live and die where we have so long resided, on the land of our fathers." In 1837, however, these Green Bay lands suddenly assumed an aspect of importance; and although only five years before, we had purchased and given them to the New York Indians, as a mere gratuity, (which they would not accept,) it became desirable, "for what reasons, or at whose promptings, we are left to conjecture," that this gratuity should be purchased back, and accordingly, in 1837, a commission was despatched to accomplish this all important object.

Mr. Sevier observes "a purchase of this Green Bay land was the ostensible object of this mission. The real object, was to obtain our influence, and our means and money, to assist a dozen or so of land speculators to purchase of the New York Indians their New York lands, for which they held, under Massachusetts, the pre-emption right. And we have already done so, to some extent. We have purchased out for this company, and for New York, five of the six tribes, all, except the Senecas, and we have attempted to buy them out also, whether successfully or not, remains to be

seen.