PILOT & TRANSCRIPT.

DUFF GREEN--EDITOR.

FOR PRESIDENT,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDEN

JOHN TYLER

OF VIRGINIA.

BALTIMORE.

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 2.

☞We would inform our friends and the public generally, that we have received another supply of the Tippecanoe Text Book.

The sub-treasury bill has passed. A few more fat offices for busy politicans. We will see what is to follow in the train of this boasted measure. Its effect, it is admitted, will be to diminish the currency, and lessen the value of labor and of property; but we venture to predict that there will be no corresponding diminution of salaries.

DOWNINGVILLE CORRESPONDENCE.

We have the pleasure to inform our readers that although the hard times have killed off Major Jack Downing, his mantle has descended to his cousin, Joel, and that he has fallen very much in love with the Pilot. It will be recollected that the Major sailed in the Two Pollies, and that down east, where he was born, they have a real love for the water. Now Sargean, Joel tells us that he intends, while he is on his travels, to send at least one letter a week, and as he has a letter of recommendation from Gen. Jackson, we expect to hear all about the sub-treasury, and a few of the secrets of the party; and we hope, with what we have to say about Amos Kendall, and what he can tell us about the party and "old Tip," and Mr. Van Buren's sub-treasury, will make the Pilot a favorite with the people.

DOWNINGVILLE, State of Maine, June, 1840.

To Gineral Duff Green, that prints the Pilot, away off to Baltimore, pretty near to Washington.

DEAR SIR: I hope you won't think strange nor nothin, because I send this ere letter to you.—I used to take considerable of a liking to you, when you and I lived together at Washington, and fit under Gineral Jackson; but I didn't know what had become of you late years, till a few days ago I was in uncle Joshua's post office, and found the Pilot, that you print away off there to Baltimore; and I sot down and chawed upon it awhile, and I liked it so well, I told uncle Joshua I meant to set right down and write to you, and try to scrape acquaintance again.

I wonder if you remember what become of me when Gineral Jackson went out of office; if you don't, I'll tell you. When my cousin, the Major, lay on his death bed, here in Downingville, jest before the Gineral finished his presidency, he writ to me at Washington, to stick by the Gineral, and take care of him as long as he lived, and when his presidency was done, to go back with him to the hermitage, and comfort him: for he knew he must be lonesome, and he couldn't bear the idea that he should be left alone, without any of his old friends round him. So I did as cousin Jack wanted me to, and when the Gineral went out of office, I went off with him clear to the hermitage, and lived with him ever since, till this summer; and used to feed his fires, and light his pipe, and take care of his garden, and go to the post office and get the papers, and read the news to him, and so on. And we lived a pretty quiet, comfortable sort of a life of it, till they begun to get up sich a fuss all over the country, about Gineral Harrison, or Old Tip, as they call him.

At first, the Gineral used to laugh about it, and said they might as well set out to make a president of his old hickory cane. He said, if the whigs had a mind to take up Webster or Clay, or Calhoun, they might get two or three States for either of 'em, but if they went for Harrison, they'd be etarnally dish'd, and wouldn't get a single State. But as the papers grew more full of the matter, the Gineral grew more airnest to see 'em. He used to send me to the post office every day as soon as the mail was in, and make me set down and read over all the news about the presidency, and when I got hold of a new paper that come out for Harrison, he would catch it out of my hands and clap on his spectacles, and look at it for a minute, and then he would slat it on to the floor, and say, there was another editor had made a fool of himself. And then he would take his pipe and go to smoking, and tell me to read on; and the more I read, the faster he'd smoke. And when the accounts come out pretty hot for Harrison, he'd start up out of his chair, and walk back and forth across the room, and make his pipe go like a steam-engine. And once when I was reading a paper that praised Old Tip up to the skies, and told all about the Battle of Tippecanoe, and Fort Meigs, and the Thames, and said Harrison had done more for his country than any other man living, the Gineral threw his pipe out of the window, as much as six rods, and dashed it all to pieces.

Now, says I, General, there's no use in that. If the folks take a notion to choose Old Tip for president, they'll do it, and you and I can't help it, no way we can fix it.

Says he, "Sargent Joel, you're a fool. Didn't I put Mr. Van Buren into the presidency to stay there eight years? And didn't he promise to follow in my footsteps? And hasn't he got four years more to serve after this year is out? And, by the Eternal, he shall do it, too, if I have to go to Washington myself to see to the business. This talking about making Harrison president, is nothing but etarnal stupid nonsense."

The morning we was expecting the mail to bring the account of the great national whig convention that met to nominate a president, the Gineral got up rather arlier than common, and I see he looked kind of fidgety and oneasy all the morning. And when we got down to breakfast, he broached the subject, and says he, "Sargent Joel, what shall we get from the whig convention, this morning?"

Well, says I, Gineral, I don't know, but I expect we shall get a nomination.

"Well, who will it be?" says he.

I don't know, says I, Gineral; who do you think?

"I'll bet you a hundred dollars," says he, "it'll be Clay. But the fools might save themselves all this trouble, for it'll be no use for em to try; he wont get more than a quarter part as many votes as Mr. Van Buren will."

Says I, "Gineral, I aint in a habit of betting, and I haint got no money to bet with. But some how or other, old Tip keeps ringing in my ears all the time."

At that the Gineral flew in a passion and drove me right out of the room, and sot and eat his breakfast alone. I thought I'd give him a little time to get cooled down again, so I steered off to the post office to get the papers, for I knew he'd want to see 'em as soon as he got done breakfast. When I got back, the Gineral sot smoking his pipe in 'tother room, and looking pretty calm and good natured again.

"Come," says he, "Sargent Joel, set down and read us the news. Let's see how strong the whigs mustered for Clay at their grand convention."

So I sot down and read, and pretty soon, out it come that the convention nominated Harrison all holler. At that the Gineral sprung out of his chair and come at me with his cane up, and says he, "You're reading a lie, you dog, you know you be."

I see by his looks it would n't do for me to stand parleying with him, so I cut and run, and got out of the room. The Gineral took up the paper and read for himself, and when he see 'twas all jest as I told him, he called to me to come back, and said he should n't touch me, for he knew I was n't to blame for whot the foolish whigs did. After that, we talked the matter over some time, and the Gineral said the whigs had showed themselves to be greater fools than he thought it was possible for 'em to be. Let 'em fret and work as hard as they please, Harrison would never get a single state.

Well, we watched the papers month after month, and arter awhile the news come that Connecticut had gone for old Tip, and Rhode Island had gone for old Tip. And says I, "Gineral, this looks rather bad, don't it?" He scowled up his forhead a little, and says he, "Who cares for Connecticut and Rhode Island? They are nothing but little old federal holes, and always was."

And when the papers in other parts of the country kept coming out more and more for Harrison, and it looked as if a good many States was going for him, it seemed to wear upon the old Gineral considerable; but he still declared it was all nonsense, and not worth a minding, till the news come in, that old Virginny had gone for old Tip too, and that fairly knocked him over. He could n't tell what to make of it. He said he believed the people was getting crazy; and something must be done to put a stop to this delusion, or Mr. Van Buren would lose the next heat as sure as the world. He said I must start right off on an electioneering tower as fast as possible, and see if I could n't set the ball rolling 'tother way. He said I must go through the whole country, clear to Downingville, away down east, and get up public meetings, and pass resolutions in favor of Mr. Van Buren, and the sub-treasury, and hard currency, and against Harrison, and Biddle's bank.

"But," says I, "Gineral, what's the use of talking about Biddle's bank now days? It's gone to the shades long ago, and squire Biddle's been out of it ever so long."

"No matter for that," says he; "the people like to hear about it, and it'd help Mr. Van Buren along more than any thing you can do for him."

"Well," says I, "Gineral, only give me tools to work with, and I'll go at it and see what I can do. But what can I bring up against Harrison to fight with? It'll be important to have some strong arguments to use, or else it'll be no use to get up resolutions."

"Arguments," said the General, gritting his teeth; "there's arguments enough, and strong enough too. When Congress passed a resolution twenty-three years ago, to censure me for taking possession of Spanish towns and forts when I was fighting the Indians in Florida, and told the whole world I did wrong to do it because we was at peace with Spain, Harrison was in the House and voted in favor of the resolution.—Yes, he voted to censure me for taking possession of Spanish ports in time of peace. Jest tell the people that, and it'll be enough to upset his dish, or I'm mistaken. The wretch! I'll never forgive him for that vote as long as I live."

I told the Gineral I was willing to take hold for him and Mr. Van Buren, and go through the country and do the best I could for 'em. He said he thought I better steer right for Downingville first, and stir up uncle Joshua and get him to take hold with me, for he was an old substantial republican, and had been in office a good while, and had a good deal of influence in the Eastern States.

So I picked up my duds, and put some bread and cheese into my pack and started off. The Gineral followed me to the door and shook hands with me, and told me to fight like a Turk, or it would be gone goose with Mr. Van Buren's administration. I have not got time, in this ere letter, to tell you all about my journey from the Hermitage clear to Downingville. If I had time I could tell you some queer things that I met with on the road. But I hav'nt got time now only jest to tell you how I found things at Downingville. I got along into the village about the middle of the afternoon; and as I was jogging along down the hill, I looked on the flat between the school-house and meetin house, and what should I see there but a great *Log Cabin*, as big as a sixty foot barn. I never was so struck up in all my life. I guess if any lady had seen me then they'd a thought my face was pretty red for about a minute. As I walked along down into the village, there was'nt a man to be seen. But the women and children was standin round the doors, and I asked 'em where the men folks was, and they said they was all gone to public dinner in the log cabin. At that, I pulled along, and as I come along towards the log cabin, I heard 'em whorah. When I stepped into the door, the first person I see was uncle Joshua. He was actin as chairman, and he called out to 'em, and says he, "Now gentlemen, fill up your mugs and dippers with hard cider, and be ready for the first toast." And at it they went, a giving their toasts for about an hour. And I never heard so much about old Tip and Tippecanoe, and Fort Meigs, and the Thames, and Fort Wayne, and Maumee Rapids, and Northwest Territory, and Indiana, and Indian treaties, and Harrison's letter to Bolivar, and sich sort of things, in all my life. Uncle Joshua swung his hat as hard as any of 'em, and joined 'em in the whorah at every toast.

I wish you'd send word to Gineral Jackson, if you have a chance before I get back along, that I've got as far as Downingville, and am a going to stick to it to the bat's end; but from what I've seen since I left the Hermitage, I'm peskily afraid Mr. Van Buren's jig is up.

I remain your old acquaintance,
And fellow soldier,
Sargent JOEL DOWNING.

GOOD.

On one of the steamboats going from New York to Albany, a party of office-holders were drinking toasts to Mr. Van Buren, and the administration, and called upon one of the sons of old Ireland, who was present, for his toast, with the promptness, characteristic of his native isle, he said—

Here's to our fathers and mothers,
Likewise to ould Ireland, too,
Down with Martin Van Buren,
And up with old Tippecanoe.

FOURTH OF JULY.

We would call the attention of such of our readers as may desire to visit the eastern shor to the advertisement of the Pocahontas and Washington steamboats.

The celebration at Barren creek will bring together a very large concourse, and enable those who desire to witness the enthusiasm, and exchange salutations with the Whigs of the eastern shore to do so, at very little cost of time or money. It is understood that the Washington will leave at Eight o'clock, p. m., and reach the landing the next morning.

HIGH-HANDED MEASURE.

After what we have seen of the efforts made by Mr. Kendall to enlist the Post Office Department and all its agents to circulate the Globe, we are not surprised to see the attempt now making to arrest all other means of distributing public documents. It is not enough that the whole Post Office Department has been converted into one vast electioneering machine—all persons whatever are to be fined, if they attempt by any other means to circulate any printed paper! Indeed, this is the madness of party!—what will not come next? In England, newspapers are ent free of postage. Here, they are not only to be taxed at the highest rate, but the steamboats and railroad companies are to be fined, if they lend their aid in circulating opposition snewspapers!!

We must have a Standing Army of 200,000 men, under the rules and articles of war, liable to be dealt with and punished by a Court Martial, if they dare to utter a word of complaint against the President!! The Purse and the Sword are to be given up; and now we are to be punished, if we dare to send our newspapers by any other conveyance than through Kendall's deputies!

But read; freemen read!—and prepare for voting.

TWENTY SIXTH CONGRESS—1st Session.

SENATE DOC. 380.

In the Senate of the United States.

June 26, 1840.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. Robinson asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

June 29, 1840.—Reported without amendment.

A BILL

Amendatory of several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall not be lawful for any stage, rail-road car, or other vehicle, which regularly performs trips on any post road, or on a road parallel to it, to convey letters or packets containing any written or printed pieces of paper; nor shall it be lawful, without the authority and consent of the Postmaster General, for any steamboat, packetboat, or other vessel, that regularly plies on any water declared to be a post road, to convey any letter or packet, except such as relate to some part of the cargo. And for every violation of the provisions of this section, the owner of the carriage or other vehicle, boat or vessel, and the corporation or other proprietors of the railroad over which such car may be conveyed, shall incur a penalty of fifty dollars. And the person who has charge of such carriage, railroad car, or other vehicle, packetboat, steamboat, or vessel, may be prosecuted for a violation of this provision, and the property in his charge may be levied on and sold in satisfaction of the penalty and costs of suit.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That no person, other than the Postmaster General, or his authorized agents, shall set up any foot, horse, or stage post, for the conveyance of any letters or packets, upon any post road which is or may be established as such by law; nor shall it be lawful for any post, express, or common carrier, not authorized by the Postmaster General, passing in cars over any railroad, or in steamboats, packetboats, or other vessels over any water declared to be a post road, to carry any letters or packets; nor shall it be lawful for any passenger or other person, passing over any railroad, or in a steamboat over any water declared to be a post road, to convey any letter or sealed packet, for which he shall receive any compensation for carrying the same: And every person who shall offend herein, shall, for each offence, incur a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars: Provided—That it shall be lawful for any one to send letters or packets by special messenger: And provided also, That this act shall not apply to any steamboat or vessel, or any person on board thereof, coming from any port in any foreign country into any port or place in the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PILOT

WASHINGTON, June 30.

In a few days, the Ex-Minister of Spain will be in our city. The meeting that will take place between the President and Major Eaton and lady, will afford *scan. mag.* for the fashionable circles of this Metropolis, for a month to come. The condemned look of the *high functionary*—the contempt of the displaced minister, and the withering scorn that will sit on the face of the lady, will afford a *tableau* of the richest kind. No one has a better knowledge of Van Buren than the lady in question; but she has yet to bear the *double treachery* practised upon herself and husband. When General Harrison was nominated, the President said, "the Whigs were gone—they would be divided, and that hence his re-election would be secure." In the seeming plenitude of his power, he took occasion to strike with fiendlike malignity his former friends. They will be here to confront him, and in time to witness *his ejection*, and consequent punishment for his Iscariot-like treachery and *ingratitude*.

WASHINGTON, July 1st, 1840.

IN SENATE.

An attempt was made by Mr. Ruggles, to have the President communicate the copy of the survey of the British government, in relation to the north-eastern boundary, but his resolution was not acted on, Mr. Buchanan stating that but one copy had been received, as an act of courtesy on the part of the British government, and that the President had requested, after it had been used by the committees on foreign relations in the two houses, that it should be returned.

Mr. Lumpkin made an effort to get up his resolution fixing the time of adjournment, but before he had time to make a long speech, a resolution was received from the House, fixing the time for the 21st inst., which will doubtless receive the sanction of the body.

The bill to purchase up the stock of the Louisville and Portland canal company, was debated at some length, but was put aside for the present, to take up the bill for the better collection of the revenue, which was debated until this package was sent.

INFATUATION OF THE SPOILS PARTY.

Since the Sub-Treasury has been decided in the House, the destructives pretend to be wonderfully elated—you see them shaking hands in all directions.—"Now we shall triumph!—at last we have the banks on the hip, and will use such as we find influential, until we destroy the others—and then we can finish the remainder in detail.' Gouge and Woodbury were near shaking each others arms off. The "patent sliding drawers and hydrostatic balances," are ordered to be ready next week. If these sliding drawers do not slide there followers down to the infamy they merit, then I am mistaken, that's all.

BEAUTIES OF THE DESTRUCTIVES!

These creatures, in their war upon the Banking institutions of the country, have brought one wide destruction upon the whole people. The North American, of Philadelphia, contains one whole page, consisting of eight columns of closely printed matter of Sheriff's sales. This is what the people have to thank their loco foco friends for. To have their property torn from them by executions, no bankrupt laws to relieve them, and no business by which they can acquire more.

A Fine Country for Loafers.—According to Mr. Humboldt, there is a tree in the South Sea Islands which produces ready made shirts. The natives cut off pieces of the tree about two feet long, from which they draw off the red and fibrous bark, in the same manner that boys draw off the bark of chesnut to make whistles.—Each man selects a tree near his own diameter, so that the shirt may be a good fit. When the bark is off, they cut a hole in each side to admit the arms. These shirts do not require any washing, starching or ironing, and a more convenient article for loafers could not be imagined. The same country produces bread fruit; so that a fellow may get his board and clothes gratis; and (what will meet the view of some Philadelphia gentlemen of leisure,) he may sleep out all night without any interruption from the watchmen. Who will put in to establish a grand Loafers' Colonization Society, to facilitate the transportation of those gentlemen to the South Sea Islands? The idea of shirts and luncheons *gratis* will be a powerful inducement for them to emigrate.

The Harrison and Tyler men of Philadelphia, have made arrangements for a grand celebration of the 4th on the island opposite the city. Among the good things of the day, it is presumed that eloquence will abound. We learn that, among many other distinguished gentlemen, the following members of Congress will be present: Messrs White, of Kentucky; Botts, of Virginia; Alford, of Georgia; and R. Biddle and John Sergeant, of Pennsylvania, who will address the company.

Dabney.—The Richmond Compiler of Fridays says:—That Wm. B. Dabney was on Thursday brought before the Judge of the Circuit Court, on a writ of Habeas Corpus.—There being much business before the Court, the Judge issued a new writ, returnable to the General Court on Monday next.

The Exports from the Port of Philadelphia for foreign ports, from the 19th to the 26th of June were:

3296 bbls. of Flour,
700 bushels of Corn,
56 hhds. and 1313 bbls. of Corn Meal,
49 tierces of Rice,
477 bbls. and 280 kegs of ship bread,
3 hhds. and 10 bbls. of Tobacco,
Amounting in value to $25,962.

The Canal Commissioners of New York, agreeably to an act of the Legislature of that State, with a view to encourage the transportation of Pennsylvania coal on the New York canals, have reduced the tolls on this article from 9 mills per ton, to 4 mills a ton per mile.

Rev. Howard Malcom, whose election to the Presidency of Shurtleff College, at Alton, Ill., we lately noticed, has declined that appointment, and accepted the same office in Georgetown College, Kentucky.

From St. Louis we learn that when the Czar passed Cairo, some eight or nine dead bodies had been found there, floating in the Ohio. From the appearance of the bodies, it is supposed they were flat-boatmen, who had met their deaths by some violent means.

Great Match Race.—The owners of Gano have offered a challenge of $10,000, four mile heats, over the Lafayette Course, next fall. The owner of Boston has accepted the challenge.

EMIGRANTS.—This has been a fruitful year for emigrants. At Quebec, alone, the number to June 20th, exceed by 11,000 those up to that period last year.

In conformity with the promise made in our last, we now lay before our readers the following article, prepared with much care, containing, an authentic digest of Mr. Van Buren's opinions as expressed in the New York Convention.

POLITICAL OPINIONS OF MARTIN VAN BUREN IN REGARD TO THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE, &c.

From the Report of the proceedings and debates of the Convention of 1821, assembled for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the State of New York.

No. 1.—*Martin Van Buren in favor of placing Free Negroes on an equality with White Men in regard to the right of suffrage.*

At the opening of the Convention, Friday, August 31s,- 1821.

Mr. King, from the committee appointed to consider and report in what manner it would be expedient to take up the business of the Convention, presented a series of resolutions the 6th of which was the follows:—

Resolved, That so much of the Constitution as relates to the rights and qualification of persons to be elected, be referred to a committee to take into consideration the expediency of making any, and if any, what alterations or amendments therein, and to report such amendments as they may deem expedient.

Journal of the Convention, page 35.

Under the above resolutions, Messrs. N. Sanford, S. Vanransellear, P. R. Livingston, Fairlie, Youg, Cramer and Ross.

JourCon. page 38.

Wednesday, Sept. 12th, 1821.

Mr. Sandford, from the committee appointed, and reported that the committee having considered the subjects referred to them, recommended the following amendments to the constitution.

1st. Every white male citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided, in this State, six months, next preceding any election, and shall within one year preceeding the election have paid any tax assessed upon him, or shall, within one year preceding any election have been assessed to work on a public road and shall have performed the work assessed upon him, or shall have paid an equivalent in money, therefore, according to law, or shall within one year preceding the election have been enrolled in the Militia in this State, and shall have served therein according to law, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the town or ward in which he shall reside, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senators, Members of Assembly, and all other officers who are or may be elective by the people.

Jour. Con. page 134.

September 19th, 1821.

On motion of Mr. Sanford, the report of the committee relative to the right of suffrage, was taken up for consideration, and was discussed.

Jour. Con. 178, &c. &c.

The question being on the first section as originally reported by the committee.

Mr. Jay, moved that the word White be stricken out.

See Jour. Con. page 190.

The object of this amendment was to place the Negroes on an equality with the Whites in regard to voting.

Col. Young earnestly opposed the amendment.

"We ought," he said, "to make a constitution adapted to our habits, manners, and state of society. Metaphysical refinements and abstract speculations are of little use in framing a Constitution.

"No White man will stand shoulder to shoulder with a negro in the train band or jury room. He will not invite him to a seat at his table, nor in his pew at church. And yet he must be placed on a footing of equality in the right of voting, and on no other occasion whatever, either civil or social!!

"The minds of the blanks are not competent to vote," continued Col. Young, "they are too much degraded to estimate the value of exercising with fidelity and discretion, that important right. It would be unsafe in their hands!! &c."

See Jour. Con. page 191.

The question on striking out the word WHITE, was then taken by ayes and noes, and decided in the affirmative, ayes 63, noes 50. **MARTIN VAN BUREN** voting in the affirmative to strike out the word WHITE, and thus place the NEGRO ON AN EQUALITY WITH THE WHITE MEN IN VOTING AT ELECTIONS. See Jour. of Con., page 202.

After the above vote was taken, Gen. Root immediately arose and observed, that "There was danger of extending the right of suffrage too far. It was now extended to NEGROES, or in the polite language of the day, to COLORED PEOPLE. It was, in his opinion, inexpedient to admit strolling voters." With a view to prevent this, he offered a further amendment relative to residence, paying of tax, doing military duty, &c., &c. See Jour. of Con., page 202.

This is the same Martin Van Buren who is now exhibited to the world as a "northern man with southern principles." Is it one of the principles of the south, that a negro has as much right to vote at elections as a white man? We pause for a reply.

No. 2.—Martin Van Buren in favor of a freehold qualification for State Senators.

September 22nd, 1821.

Chief Justice Spencer moved to amend Mr. Root's amendment, by requiring an interest in law or equity in, lands, tenements, or hereditaments of the value of $250, as a qualification of voters for State Senators.

Jour. of Con. page 215.

Mr. Van Buren opposed this amendment. He contended that the land interest "was suffiently guarded by the constitution as it now stands.—It now provides that the Senators shall be freeholders, and that part of the constitution it was not proposed to alter. There was no objection to fixing the amount of the freehold required in the elected, and to place it on a respectable, but not extravagant footing."

See Jour. of Con. page 255, &c.

After a long debate, the question on the amendment of Chief Justice Spencer, was taken by ayes and noes, and decided in the negative, ayes 19, noes 109, Mr. Van Buren voting in the negative. Jour. of Con. page 270.

Under the old constitution, which in this respect, according to Mr. Van Buren, "it was not proposed to alter," no man could be elected Senator, unless "he possessed a freehold of the value of one hundred pounds over and above all debts charged thereon." Con. of New York, 1777, sec. 10.

No. 3.—Martin Van Buren opposed to universal suffrage.—Jour. of Con. page 273.

Mr. Jay, for the sake of relieving the embarrassments of the committee, moved to strike out from Gen. Root's amendments the words, "or being armed and equipped according to law, shall have performed within the year military duty in the militia of this State."

Jour. of Con. page 274—The question was taken and decided in the negative, ayes 26, noes 92. Mr. Van Buren voting in the negative.

Gen Talmadge then moved to strike out 'or on the highways;' he was for confining the qualification of voters, to such as do military duty and pay taxes.

Col. Young replied, and was opposed to striking out. Mr. Van Buren supported the motion for striking out. The people (he said) were not prepared for universal suffrage.

Gen. Root replied, that if the clause, were stricken out it would disfranchise a numerous class of persons who out to vote.

Mr. Russell was against striking out. "It would disfranchise many who ought to vote. He recollected a Revolutionary soldier in his town, who was at the seige of Quebec, and another who was at the storming of Stoney Point, and neither would have a vote if this motion prevailed."

September 27th, 1821.

An amendment of Gen. Talmadge was under consideration. See page 276.

Jour. of Con. page 277. Gen. Root said, the amendment provided for the disfranchisement of a numerous class of citizens. He enlarged upon the remarks of the gentleman from Niagara, Mr. Russell, who mentioned two instances in his town, where two Revolutionary patriots and soldiers, one of whom fought with Montgomery under the walls of Quebec, and the other, under Wayne at Stoney Point, would be disfranchised if this provision were stricken out," &c.

Mr. Van Buren said, he felt himself called on to make a few remarks in reply to the gentleman from Delaware, (Gen. Root.) He observed that it was evident, and indeed some gentlemen did not seem disposed to disguise it, that the amendment proposed by the Hon. gentleman from Delaware (Gen. Root) contemplated nothing short of universal suffrage. Mr. Van Buren did not believe that there were twenty members of that committee who, were the bare naked question of universal suffrage put to them, would vote in its favor. Mr. Van Buren then replied to a statement made yesterday by his honorable and venerable friend from Erie, (Mr. Russell) in relation to the exclusion of soldiers, who had fought at Quebec and Stoney Point, under the banners of Montgomery and Wayne. And he felt the necessity of doing this because such cases urged by such gentlemen as his honorable friend, were calculated to make a deep and lasting impression.

* * * *—Few of those patriots were now living, and of that few, the number was yearly diminishing. In fifteen years the grave will have covered all those who now survived. Was it not then unwise to hazard a wholesome restrictive provision, lest in its operation it might effect these few individuals for a short time? He would add no more,—His duty would not permit him to say less.

One word [continued Mr. Van Buren] on the MAIN QUESTION before the Committee.—We had already reached the verge of universal suffrage. There was but one step beyond.—And are gentlemen prepared to take that step?—We were cheapening this invaluable right. He was disposed to go as far as any man in the extension of rational liberty; but he could not consent to undervalue this precious privilege, so far as to confer it with an indiscriminating hand upon every one, black and white, who would be kind enough to accept it."

See Jour. of Con. page 277.

The question on striking out "OR ON THE HIGHWAYS," was then taken by ayes and noes—and decided in the affirmative, ayes 68, noes 48. MARTIN VAN BUREN voting in the affirmative, and thus voting to exclude from the right of suffrage a large class of citizens, and also soldiers of the revolution. See Jour. of Con. page 283.

The effect of this striking out the words "or on the highways, was to exclude from voting, all those who did not pay taxes, &c.; and who, if those words had been left in the Constitution, might have voted, by working on the highways, to the amount of SIXTY-TWO AND A HALF CENTS.

Martin Van Buren, by this vote, says NO—you poor laborers, who do not pay taxes, &c. stand aside, you shall NOT VOTE. The effect of his vote to strike out white, as before shown, was to admit negroes to vote on the same footing with white men!!!

This is the Martin Van Buren, who is called by the office holders, the friend of the POOR MAN!!

September 28, 1821.

Jour. of Con. page 284. Judge Van Ness moved for a reconsideration of the vote of yesterday, for striking out the words "or on the highways."

After a long discussion, the question of reconsideration was taken and decided in the affirmative,

Col. Young then called for the consideration of Mr. Wheeler's amendment. See Jour. of Con. page 276.

Mr. Wheeler spoke at length, in its favor.—He was in favor of universal suffrage, with such exceptions and limitations as might be conducive to the public welfare. See Jour. of Con. page 284.

Judge Platt apposed the amendment on the ground that it went in favor of universal suffrage.

Mr. Van Buren "occupied the floor for some time, in expressing his sentiments decidedly against the amendment and against universal suffrage. We were (he said) hazarding every thing by going to such lengths in the amendments, &c." Page 284.

Mr. Tompkins supported the amendment and thought too much alarm had been created by the bug-bear universal suffrage. Taxation as applied to representation, meant liability to taxation. How was it when no taxes were imposed in this State? Were there no representation? &c. page 284.

Jour. of Convention, page 287. The question on Mr. Wheelers amendment was taken by ayes and noes and decided in the affirmative, ayes 63 noes 55.—Martin Van Buren voting in the negative and against universal suffrage!!

No. 4.—Martin Van Buren against universal suffrage and in favor of a household qualification for voters.

September 29, 1821.

On motion of Mr. Edwards, the whole subject was again referred to a select committee of thirteen to consider and report upon it.

Jour. of Con. page 288.

October 4th, 1821.

Col. Young, from the committee of thirteen, to whom was referred the resolution relative to the right of suffrage, made a report. See Jour. of Con. page 329.

The subject came up for discussion, page 366.

Martin Van Buren said, "that as the vote he should now give on what was called the highway qualification, would be different from what it had been on a former occasion, he would give a brief explanation. The qualifications reported by the first committee were of three kinds, viz:—The payment of a money tax—the performance of military duty—and working on the highways.—The two former had met his decided approbation. To the latter he wished to add the additional qualification, that the elector should, if he paid no tax, performed no military duty, but offered his vote on the sole ground that he had labored on the highway, also be a householder."

Mr. Van Buren then proceeded to give a history of the progress of the voting on the subject, and stated as a reason, why he would not now again attempt to add the qualification of householder, to the highway qualification, that if he did, it would be running the hazard of the re-introduction of the proposition of the gentleman from Washington, abandoning all qualifications, and throwing open the ballot boxes to every body.

Mr. Van Buren then went on to point out the many evils that would flow from a wholly unrestricted right of suffrage.

"First," he said, "it would give to the city of New York, about 25,000 votes, whilst, under the liberal extension of the right or the choice of delegates, to this convention, she had but about thirteen or fourteen thousand; that the character of the increased number of votes would be such as would render their elections rather a curse than a blessing."

"Secondly, it would not only be injurious to them, but to the northern and western part of the State, &c., the additional representation which next year was to be distributed among the counties, would, instead of going principally to the west, be surrendered to the worst population of the old counties and cities."

"Thirdly, the door would be entirely closed against retreat, whatever might be our after conviction, founded on experience, as to the evil tendency of this extended suffrage."

He said the highway tax was within the control of the legislature, and might hereafter be confined to property. For one hundred years at least, this would afford protection against the evils apprehended. He would, therefore, notwithstanding that his desire to have the qualification of householder, added to the electors of the third description remained unchanged, accept the report of the committee as it was, with the addition of military qualification, which he thought ought to be adopted for the sake of principle, if for no other reason.

The question was taken—affirmative 86, negative 14. See Jour. of Con. 368.

No. 5.—Martin Van Buren in favor of a freehold qualification for negroes, in exercising the right of suffrage.

The next subject in order was the compromise reported by the committee of thirteen, allowing a negroe to vote, provided he had three years' residence in the state, one year in the county, and was seized of a freehold estate of the value of two hundred and fifty dollars over and above all debts and incumbrances charged thereon, and shall have been actually rated and paid a tax thereon.

Gen. Root moved that the committee rise and report. "He hoped they would not (it being 3 o'clock) take up the negroes on an empty stomach."

The motion to rise and report was lost.

Jour. Con. page 360.

Mr. Van Buren said he had voted against a total and unqualified exclusion [of the negroes] for he would not draw a revenue from them and yet deny to them the right of suffrage;—but this proviso met his approbation, they were exempted from taxation until they had qualified themselves to vote. The right was not denied, to exclude any portion of the community who will not exercise the right of suffrage in its purity. This held out inducements to industry and will receive his support."—Jour. of Con. page 376.

The question was taken on allowing negroes to vote, as above stated, ond decided in the affirmative, ayes 74, noes 38, Mr. Van Buren voting in the affirmative.—Jour. of Con. 378.

The subject was reported to the Convention, and the question was taken on the whole section including provisos, &c., and decided in the affirmative, ayes 72, noes 32, Mr. Van Buren voting in the affirmative.—Jour. of Con. page 557.

The section thus adopted and made a part of the Constitution of the State of New York, is as follows:

ARTICLE SECOND.

Sec. 1. Every male citizen, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been an inhabitant of this state one year preceding any election, and for the last six months a resident of the town or county where he may offer his vote; and shall have within the year next preceding the election, paid a tax to the state or county, assessed upon his real or personal property; or shall by law be exempted from taxation; or being armed or equipped according to law, shall have performed within that year, military duty in the militia of this state; or who shall be exempted from performing military duty in consequence of being a fireman in any city, town, or village in this state; and