

THE CONVENTIONS.

The convention to reform the Constitution of Pennsylvania, assembled at the state capital on the 2d instant, all the delegates being present except THOMAS HASTINGS, of Jefferson county.

Gen. CUNNINGHAM, of Mercer, was chosen chairman; and J. C. BIDDLE and CHAS. A. BARNITZ, secretaries *pro tem*.

The secretary of the commonwealth then presented to the convention a certified list of the delegates elected to the convention; after which the convention proceeded to elect the presiding officers. The vote for president stood as follows:—

JOHN SERGEANT had 66 votes.
JAMES M. PORTER " 63 "

So that Mr. SERGEANT was declared duly elected; and after being conducted to the chair by Mr. PORTER, made the following brief address:

Gentlemen, Members of this Convention.—The station you have called me to by your election, is one which in this commonwealth, and elsewhere in our country, has occupied by the most eminent citizens. However unworthy I must feel myself to be associated with the illustrious names which form the roll of Presidents of conventions, it cannot but be felt as a high honor to have a place in the same list with them. It is deeply felt to be so, and I beg you to accept for my most sincere acknowledgments.

The subjects we are to deliberate upon are of no ordinary character. It is not an exaggeration to say that they are of transcendent importance. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania was one of the first, if not the very first, to imitate the example of the whole people of the United States; in taking down the fabric of government which had been provided amidst the exigencies of a new and disturbed state of existence, and in replacing it by a solid structure, deliberately formed, and intended to give permanent security to all the rights of every member of the community. At the end of fifty years, the system of social order which was then framed, is committed to our hands that we may examine it, and if need be, propose to our fellow citizens such improvements as this great fundamental law may seem to require. Such a work, it must be acknowledged, demands the utmost exertion of wisdom and exemption, as far as possible, from the influence of prejudice and passion, and every disturbing motive—and, withal, a spirit of pure and generous patriotism which seeks no other gratification than to promote the lasting happiness of those who are, and those who are to be inhabitants of this great and favored commonwealth.

A constant sense of the magnitude of the duty we are called to perform, and of the grave accountability we are under for its faithful performance, cannot fail to produce calmness and order in our deliberations; while at the same time a becoming seriousness, with mutual kindness and respect, will be an earnest to our fellow citizens of the singleness of purpose with which we follow the path of that great duty; and with the blessings of a gracious Providence upon our counsels, the best means of accomplishing good results.

To the utmost of my humble powers, I promise to co-operate with you in whatever will tend to give character and efficacy to our proceedings. With but little aid from experience, I am very sensible of my deficiencies, and how much I shall stand in need of your continual indulgence and support. My hope, and my belief is, that they will be liberally extended to unintentional error, and further than this you may be assured there will be no claim.

Pardon me for detaining you a moment longer, to express to you my heartfelt wish that all who are here assembled, may, to the last day of their lives, have cause to rejoice in the acts of this convention, with as firm conviction that they have done nothing to weaken the foundations of human freedom and happiness.

The convention then adjourned, to meet again at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 1837.

The convention met at ten o'clock, and spent the whole morning in electing a Secretary, and resolving the appointment of three assistants. The vote for Secretary stood as follows:

For Samuel Shoeh, 67 votes.
Francis R. Shunk, 65 "

By the resolution Francis R. Shunk was made an additional secretary, and George L. Fauss and Joseph Williams assistant secretaries. Mr. Shunk, however, has since declined the honor of serving under an antismason.

In the afternoon the convention elected James E. Mitchell, Sergeant-at-arms, and Daniel Eckels, Door-keeper; and by a resolution Andrew Krause was appointed assistant door-keeper.

The following resolution was then offered by Mr. INGERSOLL, and laid on the table:

Resolved, That it be referred to a special committee to report what business it is proper for this convention to take into consideration, and that the said committee be in-

structed to report a reference of the following several subjects, each one to a special committee, to be appointed by the president of this convention, viz:

- 1st. The subject of Legislation.
- 2d. The subject of the Judiciary.
- 3d. The subject of the Executive department.
- 4th. The subject of Elections and Suffrage.
- 5th. The subject of a bill of rights.
- 6th. The subject of constitutional amendments.
- 7th. The subject of the Currency.
- 8th. The subject of Corporations and Privileges.
- 9th. The subject of Learning, Education, and Science.
- 10th. The subject of Official Appointment and Tenure.
11. The subject of the Militia.
- 12th. The subject of Public Highways by land and water, and the eminent Domain of the State.
- 13th. The subject of Internal Improvements.
- 14th. The subject of the Political Year.

Together with such other subjects as the said first mentioned committee may think fit to report for the action of this convention, and that the said committee be instructed to report whether this convention is, or can be restrained by any act of the legislature; in its power to submit amendments to the constitution, or a new constitution for the acceptance of the people.

Mr. HOPKINSON offered the following, which was laid on the table:

Resolved, That so much of the constitution as relates to the legislative department, be referred to a committee to take into consideration the expediency of making any, and if any, what alterations and amendments therein, and report thereon.

Resolved, That so much of the constitution as relates to the executive department, be referred to a committee, to take into consideration the expediency of making any, and if any, what alterations and amendments therein, and to report thereon.

Resolved, That so much of the constitution as relates to matters not referred to by the foregoing resolutions, be referred to a committee to take the same into consideration, and report whether any, and if any, what alterations and amendments thereof are expedient.

Resolved, That the Bill of Rights be referred to a committee, to consider and report whether any, and if any, what alterations and amendments thereof are expedient.

The convention then proceeded to ballot for printers of the English Debates, but adjourned without accomplishing the object—the editors of the "Keystone," and Fenn of the "Telegraph," having an equal number of votes.

THURSDAY, May 4, 1837.

A communication from Francis R. Shunk, resigning the office of additional clerk was read; and a resolution electing Packer, Barrett and Parke, printers of the English Debates, Thompson and Clark printers of the English Journal, E. Guyer printer of the German Debates, and Joseph Ehrenfreid printer of the German Journal was adopted by a vote of 93 to 37.

FRIDAY, May 5, 1837.

After some preliminary business Samuel A. Gilmore was elected an additional Secretary in the room of Mr. Shunk; and the present constitution, together with the bill of rights, and constitution of 1776, ordered to be printed for the use of the members. Several resolutions were offered, which were either laid on the table or indefinitely postponed.

SATURDAY, May 6, 1837.

The committee appointed to report rules for the regulation of the convention, submitted a great number, which after much discussion and various amendments were adopted.

The following just and highly merited tribute of respect to the memory of DAN CALDWELL, dec'd., was delivered in the reform Convention, by E. BANKS, Esq. of Millin on the 3d inst:

MR. PRESIDENT:—Before proceeding to the business of the Convention this morning, allow me to remark, that although there is a very full attendance of the delegates elected by the people on the 4th of November last, to prepare and propose amendments to the constitution of the state, there is one absent, and who never can be here.

One who, on the day of the election which made you sir, and every gentleman on this floor, with one exception, (the gentleman who fills his place,) members of this Convention, had as fair a prospect of being here, as any one now present. One who could not have been detained "by light and trivial causes," from being here this day, if in being, but who submissively bowing to the will of Omnipotence, said as his relatives and friends have and should individually say in relation to his loss, "the will of my God be done." I will be understood to mean Dan Caldwell, of Union county.

It is not my purpose to eulogize Mr. Caldwell, but I may be allowed to state,

that in all the relations of life in addition to being affectionate and kind, he was active, energetic and useful, upright in his deportment, a good citizen and an honest man.—Therefore

Resolved, That the Convention, as a token of their regard for the memory of Dan Caldwell, allow this notice of his death to be placed upon the journal.

Mr. MERRILL did not know that he could suggest any thing to what had been presented by the gentleman on his right, Mr. (Banks.) He deemed it proper, however, as a citizen from the county where the deceased resided, to say that in all the walks of life he had been respected, honored and esteemed. He had known the deceased long, and although they differed on some points, yet as intimate acquaintances and friends, they had always agreed; and he could say with truth that there was no one among his friends for whom he entertained a higher regard than DAN CALDWELL. The convention in the death of this gentleman had met with a serious loss; for although he was attached to a party, he held the interests of his country above any feeling of party; whatever respect therefore could be paid to his memory by the convention, he hoped it might be done, as there was no one more deserving of it than the deceased.

We shall continue our notice, as above, of the diurnal proceeding.

The "Integrity of the Union" convention which we noticed in our last as having adjourned without accomplishing any particular object, must have transacted much business in the absence of our correspondent. About 190 delegates attended, representing 37 counties of the state; and with the exception of a few unsuccessful attempts made by disguised abolitionists who procured seats in the Convention, to disturb the proceedings, there existed a perfect harmony of feeling, and unity of action. The Hon. THOMAS H. BAIRD, of Washington presided, assisted by twelve vice presidents and five secretaries. We extract from the proceedings the following preamble and resolutions as reported by the committee appointed for that purpose, and which were unanimously adopted by the Convention.

The cautious wisdom which distinguished the framers of the constitution of the United States, is strikingly manifested in the reserve with which the instrument alludes to the existence of domestic servitude among the African race, and exerts an important influence on several articles of the compact, the term slave or slavery nowhere occurs.

The appointment of representatives and of direct taxes, is required to be made according to the population of the states respectively, by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states should think proper to admit, is not to be prohibited by congress prior to the year 1808.—No person held to labor or service in one state according to the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such labor or service, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party, to whom such labor or service may be due.

By this carefully varied but clear phraseology, it was sought to protect the interests of the slave holding states, and to secure the right of the master to the services of his slave. Congress was vested with power to prohibit the introduction of slaves after the year 1808; but in all other respects, the subject of slavery was included in the general reservation of powers not delegated, and was left to the unrestricted action of each state within its own limits.

Such are the articles of the constitution, which relate to slavery within the United States, fully recognizing its existence, and guarding against any legislation which might liberate an absconding slave.

When it is remembered, how many conflicting interests, and how many variant habits of thought and life, were reconciled by the spirit of mutual concession which is embodied in this compact, no argument should be required to enforce all its provisions, and to rescue its principles from violation.

Nor can it be necessary to demonstrate to the candid and the honorable, that the spirit of this compact is opposed to measures by which the rights it recognises are disturbed in their exercise, or impaired in their security. Principle cannot sanction an indirect interference with relations, which are thus formally vindicated and established.

Slavery existed in the District of Columbia at the time of its cession to the United States, and the rights growing out of this circumstance have recently been made the subject of highly excited discussion. It is not however necessary, in the judgment of this convention, to inquire how far those rights are protected by the terms of the constitution. It is enough that, whether so protected or not, they ought in no wise to be affected by an act of legislation. Were even the power of Congress unquestionable, its action on the subject is forbidden by considerations of the highest policy.

Such it is believed are now the views and opinions of the people of Pennsylvania,—

a state which acting for itself, has within its own borders treated slavery as an evil both in the abstract and in practice,—and it is for the single purpose of expressing them that this convention has been assembled. Its members have been chosen at meetings held without distinction of party in the several counties of the state, and most of them have been especially charged by the language of their commission to "assure our brethren of the Southern states, that we, as a state, are opposed to the schemes of the immediate abolitionists, and that we will to the utmost of our ability defend and sustain the constitution of the United States, and that compact by which we are united as one people."

Sensible of the importance of declaring frankly and accurately the general sentiment of Pennsylvania on this subject, the convention, after a full consultation; has adopted, in the name of its constituents, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the government of the United States, has no constitutional power whatever, over the relation of master and slave, in any of the states of the Union.

Resolved, That whether congress does or does not possess the right of legislating on the subject of the abolition of slavery within the district of Columbia, it would be unwise and impolitic in the extreme, to assert or exercise such right; as any attempt to do so would impair the harmony and mutual confidence of the states, if not perit the integrity of the Union.

Resolved, That each state has the exclusive right under the constitution, to judge of, establish, and maintain within its own borders, its own system of domestic relations and domestic policy; and that every attempt by the citizens of one state to denounce or invalidate the established institutions of another, is unwarranted by the constitution, and hostile to the peace and harmony of the Union.

Resolved, That no state could be justly required to recognise as valid, under the constitutional compact of the states, a measure which should violate its internal security and peace, or abrogate the rights of property of its citizens; and that we pledge ourselves to unite with the people of the other states, in opposing such infractions of the constitution, and in maintaining the domestic repose of every member of this confederation.

Resolved, That the project of colonizing, on the coast of Africa, free persons of color and manumitted slaves, to be carried thither with their own consent, does hold out to the patriot and philanthropist, the hope of the ultimate abolition of slavery, the elevation of the African race to a state of equality with the rest of the human family, the extension of the blessings of civil liberty, self-government, and the diffusion of the principles of the Sacred Gospel of Peace within that benighted region; and that the praiseworthy efforts of the colonization societies, to bring about these most desirable results, are entitled to the best wishes and the hearty co-operation of all the friends of the peace, order, harmony and integrity of the union of these states.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to the President of the United States, the governors of the several states and the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

From the Pennsylvania Reporter.
THE NEW SCHEME.

There is, we doubt not, a settled determination on the part of Mr. Biddle, and other leading individuals connected with the United States Bank, to procure, if possible, a re-charter of that institution by congress. To this desire may be traced, in a great measure, the cause of the pressure which is now so generally complained of in our business cities—because, a part of the plan is, so to unsettle and derange all business regulations, as to induce the belief, on the minds of the people, that a prosperous state of affairs cannot again exist, until a new National Bank shall have been established. So confident are these gentlemen of the success of their scheme, that they are already beginning to let their humble satellites into the secret, and we have been informed through a source entitled to credit, that a wager to a large amount has actually been laid within the last two weeks, by a zealous and active partizan of the Bank, that this design would be accomplished, and a National Bank established by Congress within two years!

The pressure under which the individuals very extensively engaged in business in the commercial cities of the country, for some time past, has been attempted to be attributed to a variety of causes, the principal one of which, appeared to be the operation of the Treasury order issued under the direction of Gen. JACKSON, a few months before his retirement from the presidency. To his "interference," as the Bank Whigs are pleased to call it, with the currency and business relations of the country, all the evils were traced. The abuse which has been heaped upon him for several years past, was redoubled, and threats are now openly made, that unless his successor consents to an abandonment of his policy, "pistols shall flash, and dirks gleam," and a committee of "ten thousand armed free men" proceed to Washington to "relieve the country from the grievance" complained of. A fire-eater named Gould, belonging to the city of New York, has avowed his readiness to engage in the enterprise, and more than one incendiary Whig press has openly advocated the adoption of such a course.

The object of the Bank and its satellites is evidently to create a "panic" to spread confusion throughout the land, and force, if possible, from President Van Buren, a repeal of a salutary and wise regulation, and from Congress an act of incorporation for a National Bank. Those who have read the articles upon the subject of the pressure, which we have recently laid before them from the Washington Globe and other able exponents of sound principles, understand perfectly well, how the Treasury order, so obnoxious to greedy speculators, operates, and the beneficial results which must necessarily flow from its continuance; and it will also appear perfectly evident to them, that whilst it affects injuriously, only the few who sought, by a system of speculation upon the public domain, through the medium of fictitious capital, to enrich themselves speedily at the expense of the many, it is calculated materially to improve the condition of the poor man, and secure the actual settler of the public lands in the possession of his rights.

With this knowledge before them, they know full well, how little truth there can be in the declamatory assertions of the Bank Whigs, that to this cause the existing monetary difficulties are attributable—and they will, we are confident, unite with us in the hope, that the President will, under no circumstances, take any steps in relation to its abrogation, which would have the effect of again awakening the extravagant system of land speculation, which the order itself so effectually curbed.

It is not the effect of the treasury order, but the operation of the United States bank itself, which has produced the present derangement in the monied affairs of the country. Its object is the one we have already adverted to, to grind and oppress the people, until it forces a charter from their representatives in congress. The bank has found that it cannot act as extensively and profitably as it desires to, under the charter granted by the legislature of this state, and it now aspires to be at the head of affairs, where it may exercise unlimited power, and "make money plenty or scarce at its pleasure."

What do the people of Pennsylvania think of this project? They have been actively engaged for several years past, in combating this monster in all its forms. They condemned in loud and emphatic terms, the recreant representatives who violated their solemn pledges, and gave the bank a new existence.—They instructed their delegates to the reform convention, to use all proper exertions to repeal the charter so mysteriously obtained; and they have on all occasions, manifested a most decided and uncompromising hostility to every measure which had even the slightest tendency to a state institution. Could Pennsylvania, as it now aspires to be at the head of affairs, and force from congress an act of incorporation which would establish, at once and forever, its supremacy over the nation, and bind the government in chains? Never!—*Pa. Reporter.*

THE PHILADELPHIA BANKS.

For the information of our friends at a distance, we may state that not a doubt exists in the minds of the community, as to the entire solvency of all these institutions. They have no doubt suffered somewhat by the failure of some of their customers, but they are all well managed, and under the control of skillful and experienced financiers, and enjoy the unbounded confidence of our citizens. If it shall be determined on the part of the New York or any other banks to suspend specie payments temporarily, we feel satisfied that the Philadelphia institutions will be the last to resort to such a remedy, although from present appearances, it is our conviction that no such remedy will at any time be rendered necessary for them. We believe it is an admitted fact that the amount of specie in circulation at this time, is larger than at any former period for a number of years.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

BANK NOTES.

It will be seen on reference to the table on our fourth page, that we have given quotations with regard to a number of the eastern and western Banks. It is proper for us to add that little dependence can be placed upon them, as such is the deranged condition of exchanges, that notes which the brokers purchase readily and on liberal terms one day, they refuse on any terms the next. Yesterday, for example, they refused on any terms, the notes of the Safety Fund Banks of the state of New York, while on Saturday they purchased them at ten per cent. discount. The reader can readily perceive the melancholy condition of affairs from these facts.—*ib.*

HYMENIAL.

"The silken tie that binds two willing hearts."

MARRIED.—On Thursday last, by the Rev. Mr. Shindle, SAMUEL KERSTETTER, to Miss MARY BOON, all of Hemlock township.

On the 13th ult. by John Leitch, Esq. Mr. Wm. H. RISHEL, of Liberty township, Columbia county, to Miss MARY ANN STUFFER, of Union county.

On Wednesday, the 26th ult. by the Rev. Wm. Coder, Mr. HYRAM HUGHES, of Steuben county, N. Y. to Miss LEWRISSA BOONE, of Catawissa township, Columbia county, Pa.

In Nancy, on the 22d ult. by J. J. Course, Esq. Mr. JONATHAN WILLETS, of Columbia county, to Miss SARAH MERRILL, of the former place.

In Jersey Shore, on the 25th ult. by the Rev. S. S. Shelden, Rev. JOHN H. GRIER, of Pine creek township, to Miss BAILY, of the former place.

On the 4th inst. by the Rev. J. Banks, Mr. JOHN F. WILBUR, one of the editors of the Berwick Sentinel, to Miss HELEN DAVIS, all of Berwick, Columbia county.

OBITUARY.

"In the midst of life we are in death."

In this place on Thursday the 4th instant, THOMAS, the eldest son of Mr. Philip Christman, in the tenth year of his age.