

From the Mountaineer.
THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

[No 1.]

After a lapse of nearly FORTY-SEVEN YEARS, the people of Pennsylvania are about to assemble in Convention, by their authorized agents, for the purpose of considering the FUNDAMENTAL LAW of the Commonwealth. The Constitution which is now to be reconsidered, and if necessary, revised, was "done in Convention," the second day of September 1790, and presents, in its various provisions, the clearest evidence of political wisdom and pure republican virtue.

The period at which the present constitution was ordained, was highly favorable for the proper performance of a task so important. The spirit of the Revolution was still active, and continued to pervade and animate the popular mind; the principal scenes of that momentous struggle were still glowing in the vivid recollections of those who had participated in their glory, or escaped from their terrors, and many of the most prominent actors in the great revolutionary drama, were still in existence, to consummate by their wisdom what their valor had begun.

The general prevalence of correct information on the subject of constitutional law, was another circumstance which distinguished, in the most favorable manner, the period at which our constitution was considered and adopted.

The enlightened discussions which accompanied the formation and adoption of the constitution of the United States, had been scarcely concluded, when the people of Pennsylvania met in convention to amend their form of government. The arguments in favor of, and the objections against the federal constitution were fresh in the minds of the people.

When we consider, that the soundest statesmen of that day distinguished themselves in the important controversies which originated in a choice of principles, for the establishment of rational liberty, and that the most powerful minds were brought into conflict in making that choice; and when we take up the number of "THE FEDERALIST," and contemplate the range of thought, the grasp of reason, the power of argument and the force of truth therein evinced, the conclusion is irresistible, that at that day, HUMAN RIGHTS were well understood, and that ample securities were then provided for their protection.

A National Convention, over whose deliberations the FATHER of the Republic presided, had recently held a protracted session in the metropolis of Pennsylvania. In that Convention, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, JAMES MADISON, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, ROGER SHERMAN, JAMES WILSON, JOHN DICKINSON, and ROBERT MORRIS were among only their equals, as regards purity of purpose, and a high and a holy patriotic devotion to their country.

The arduous labors of that convention were recommended to the people of the United States, by the most eloquent tongues, the ablest pens and the greatest weight of character, that perhaps ever united their influence in the establishment of civil policy.

The political writings of HAMILTON, MADISON and JAY, were, of themselves, sufficient to distinguish and consecrate that period, as an epoch in political science, which certainly had no parallel in the annals of the past. The entire history of civil government, in all the variety of its forms and principles, had been carefully explored, and subjected to a critical analysis and a severity of investigation, that never lost sight of the practical purposes to which it was applied.

From this cause alone, it would be fair to infer, that the people of Pennsylvania, in 1790, understood the principles of civil and religious liberty, as well as any other community of free and enlightened men. But we are not dependent on inference only, in our efforts to sustain the position for which we contend. The constitution itself bears strong internal evidence of the wisdom and the virtue of the republican patriots by whom it was framed, and the people by whom it was adopted.

The NAMES appended to the constitution under whose provisions the people of this Commonwealth have enjoyed the blessings of good government for FORTY SEVEN YEARS, would, in the absence of any other recommendation, impart great force to the claims of an instrument possessing less intrinsic perfection. JAMES WILSON, THOMAS M'KEAN, ALEXANDER ADDISON, JAMES ROSS, WILLIAM FINDLEY, and ALBERT GALLATIN were far above the intellectual stature of common men.

Thomas M'Kean and James Wilson had been distinguished members of the glorious Congress of '76, and their names may be found on the "great charter" of our liberties,—the immortal declaration of American Independence. Judge Wilson was also a member of the convention of 1787, and was honorably distinguished by his energetic labors in the formation of the national constitution; and he was unquestionably the most conspicuous member of the convention of 1790, which gave to Pennsylvania the constitution which she now proposes to amend.

And, as a happy illustration of the influence which was exerted over the destinies of Pennsylvania, by the enlightened deliberations of the convention of '87, we find many of the most important and salutary provisions of the Federal Constitution, (so far as they were applicable to the condition of a member of the great confederacy of

states) interwoven with the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

It is also proper to notice the fact, that, at the time when the constitution of Pennsylvania was devised, the wild spirit of ungovernable democracy, which insulted Heaven and degraded the earth by its demoniac licentiousness in France, had not as yet spread its seductive allurements before the advocates of liberal principles, on this side of the Atlantic. The political philosophy of France was, in its plausible inception, well calculated to deceive those who contended for equality of privileges and rights. But our constitution was framed and adopted, before the pernicious doctrine of the French school found active adherents in this infant republic.

For this Providential exemption from so great an evil, we should still cherish a lively sense of gratitude to heaven. For, firmly as our institutions were established by the well-timed adoption of our Federal and State constitutions, their perpetuity was greatly endangered, by the destructive cause to which we have adverted; and some noble minds in this country were deeply infected with the infidel theory propagated in France, from which nothing but its practical atrocities could induce them to revolt.

The foregoing considerations will certainly extort the admission, that all the circumstances under which our present constitution was formed and adopted, were decidedly favorably to the prevalence of good principles, and such principles were incorporated in the fundamental law of Pennsylvania, by men who possessed sound understandings and honest hearts.

From what has been said, we would not be understood, as dissenting from the propriety of constitutional reform. It was however conceived to be proper, to notice the circumstances under which and the venerated persons by whom our present constitution was formed and established, and we did so, for this, among other reasons,—that the delegates who are now about to exercise the highest rights of sovereignty for the benefit of the present and succeeding generations, may be duly apprised of the difficulty and the delicacy of the task we have undertaken, and the high responsibilities under which it is to be performed. To revise an instrument originally formed by wise and patriotic men, and which has in some degree been sanctified by the lapse of time, requires an equal degree of wisdom and patriotism, if improvement be the object of that revision.

The people, after repeated periodical deliberations, willed a constitutional reform; and this expression of their will demands, and receives, our acquiescence. The small majority by whom, and the peculiar circumstances under which that will was expressed, in connection with the singular apathy with which this great question has been subsequently regarded, have not increased our confidence in the ultimate success of the measure. The final submission of the labors of the convention to the decision of the people, (if it be unincumbered with exciting topics, and extraneous considerations,) is a redeeming principle calculated to inspire hope and allay apprehension.

We take no counsel from FEAR; although, in reference to the matters before us, frequent appeals have been made to that timid and paralyzing passion. All the Whig, and many of the Anti-masonic papers, (for in this respect they can scarcely be distinguished from each other,) have sounded the trumpet of alarm, and indulged in the most gloomy predictions, in relation to the "reform," which is now contemplated in Pennsylvania. We notice these appeals to fear, and these lugubrious predictions, for the purpose of unfolding a principle which many professed republicans seem to misunderstand. We shall pursue this disquisition in our next, and the succeeding numbers of our paper, in obedience to the dictates of duty, and in compliance with the wishes of many of our readers, by whom the proposed constitutional reform is properly regarded a question of unequalled importance.

Extraordinary Suicide.—The body of a man was found on the bank of the seine at Rouen. In one of his pockets was found a paper on which the following lines were written in a trembling hand.—

"She is sixteen. I am almost twice her age. It is long since I saw her for the first time; she then smiled upon me with innocence of childhood, and her sweet little hands played with my hair.

She is sixteen this day—and I am more than forty—her hands are more timid, and her angel eyes are abashed when I look upon her. Why?

I would almost wager this child of sixteen loves me; for I have seen her weep, have seen tears in her eyes when any danger has threatened me.

And I—but I am more than forty—and she is scarcely sixteen—yesterday she was not so. Is she not too young for me, or am I not too old for her?

It is better to determine this business. I destroy myself, not because I am more than forty, but because she is not more than sixteen."

The body has not been recognized.—*Paris Paper.*

The Parisians commit suicide as if they expected to read accounts of their own death in the newspapers, and to receive the congratulations of their friends. Every suicide seems to have been prompted by love of notoriety.

Office of the Bee.

New Orleans, May 5, 1837.

CAPTURE OF A MEXICAN BRIG OF WAR BY THE NATCHEZ.

The schooner Climax, which arrived last evening, puts us in possession of the following important intelligence.

The U. S. Sloop of war Natchez on the 17 April off the Brasos St. Jago, made a formal demand upon the Mexican authorities to deliver up, and release the American vessels, Julius Caesar, Champion, Leonidas and three others whose names are not recollected, which had been illegally captured by the Mexican fleet, cruising off the coast of the Republic of Texas. To this demand no answer was returned. The Climax was in company with the Natchez, and had been brought to by the Mexican fleet. A firing was commenced from the port forward the fore rigging, went through the deck into the larboard bow, started a plank, and caused the schooner to make three and a half feet of water an hour.

The Natchez being informed of the situation of the Climax, sent the carpenter and several of the crew to the assistance of that vessel. Having repaired the climax, she took her in convoy as far off as Matagorda. In the meanwhile the Mexican brig of war (formerly the Privilegio) hove in sight, and was taken possession of by the Natchez; a prize crew were put on board, and she was ordered to Pensacola.

These are the imperfect particulars we have received. The taking of the vessel may be relied on; but we regret the circumstances that lead to this act are not more minutely detailed. Doubtless the aggravation was very great, and that the honor of the American flag compelled the commander of the Natchez to take the step he did.

The fact is that on the previous occasion of Mexican folly and audacity, when the Louisiana was so unjustly and illegally captured, a similar course would have been completely justified on the part of Capt. Mervine.

N. B. The steam boat Grampus reports that the Mexican brig is off the S. W. Pass in the custody of the U. S. Sloop of War Natchez, bound to Pensacola.

The public announcement this morning of the suspension of specie payments at all the banks of the city, had the effect, as it was natural to expect, of creating a great excitement among all classes of our citizens. At an early hour this morning, Wall street was thronged with people who appeared to have collected together merely to ascertain what was going on—Preparations had been made by the new Mayor to meet every emergency that might arise, by calling out a large body of the military, the city watch and marshals, who were kept upon duty during the greater part of the day and last night. From what we could observe, however, throughout the city yesterday this measure was entirely unnecessary. The citizens have too much good sense and patriotism to need the intimidation of an armed soldiery in order to deter them from the commission of riot and outrage. The contrary was the fact; men of every grade cheerfully acquiesced in the measures adopted by the Banks, and seemed to look upon it as the harbinger of a better state of things. In the Police office yesterday, there was not a single complaint of disorderly conduct, which is an extraordinary circumstance.—*Express.*

Shad.—It is supposed that fifty thousand shad were taken in the nets on last Sunday week, near Staten island.

The Influenza has been unusually prevalent and fatal in Kentucky. In Frankfort several of the oldest inhabitants and many children have died of it.

There are about 325,000 free persons of color in the United States—of these, are 38,000 in the state of Pennsylvania.

An extensive establishment for counterfeiting coin was broken up in New Orleans about ten days ago. One of the rogues was taken. Another, well known, has not yet been caught.

It is stated in a New Orleans paper, that there is not a single house of worship in all Texas. It may with truth be said, there is not another place under Heaven where they are more needed.

A wag writes from New York that the times are so hard there that even the watches have "stopped."

We suppose that after they shall have been wound up they will be allowed to go on tick a while longer.

The subscription price of a weekly newspaper about half as large as the York Gazette, printed in Vera Cruz, in Mexico, is \$35 per annum.

The majority of the democratic ticket at the recent election in Rhode Island was more than 2000.

"Tom," said a man to his friend, a day or two since, "I think it highly dangerous to keep the pills on hand now-a-days."

"Jim," answered the other, "I find it far more difficult than dangerous."

OFFICE OF THE PATRIOT.

Charleston, May 1, 5

WAR ENDED.

The following is an extract of a letter, received in this city on the 28th ult. from a lieutenant in the army, dated Fort Dade, 13th April, and says,—
 "Jessup has moved to Tampa Bay, 50 miles from this. The war is ended unquestionably. The Indians are coming in rapidly—upwards of 1000 at Tampa ready to embark. There are in the nation 1680 warriors, the world estimated them at from 500 to 800. Their estimation of every thing here, is in a wide proportion."

THE MAMMOTH MAN.—Daniel Brackett, recently died at his residence in Newmarket, N. H. A short time previous to his death, he weighed five hundred and sixty pounds. He was nearly six feet in height, and measured round the body, seven feet and ten inches! His coffin was two feet ten inches wide, and two feet high. So says the Boston Times.

MARRIED.

On Monday the 8th inst. by Michael Brobst, Esq. Mr. SAMUEL HILL of Perry county, to Miss CATHARINE BROCEUS of Northumberland county.

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

SHERIFFALTY.

To the Electors of Columbia county:

FELLOW CITIZENS: At the solicitation of a number of my friends I have been encouraged to offer myself as a Candidate for the office of

SHERIFF,

at the ensuing General Election. If I should be so fortunate as to obtain a majority of your suffrages, I pledge myself, so far as my abilities will admit, to perform the duties of the office with integrity and humanity.

PETER KLINE.

May 23, 1837.

SHERIFFALTY.

To the Electors of Columbia county:

FELLOW CITIZENS: At the urgent solicitation of numerous friends, I offer myself as a candidate for the office of

SHERIFF.

Should I be so fortunate as to receive a majority of votes, and procure my commission, I pledge myself to execute the duties of the office with fidelity and impartiality.

ELIAS McHENRY.

May 13, 1837.

Tailoring Business.

A CARD.

The Subscriber

RETURNS his acknowledgments to his numerous friends and customers for their past favors, and would now respectfully announce to them, that he has received the latest

SPRING FASHIONS,

From Philadelphia, and as there are material changes, invites persons desirous of having their garments made in the neatest and best style, to give him a call. He will endeavour to please all who favour him with their patronage, by executing his work in a neat and fashionable manner, and at the shortest notice.

PETER R. HEIGHMAN.

Orangeville, May 13, 1837.

WANTED:

A Journeyman Tailor,

Who will find constant employment. None need apply except a good workman. ALSO:

AN APPRENTICE

Is wanted. A lad between the age of 14 and 17 years, of industrious habits, who wishes to learn the Tailoring business, will find a good situation, by applying immediately to

PETER R. HEIGHMAN.

Orangeville, May 13, 1837.

HATTING BUSINESS.

Benjamin Zerr,

RESPECTFULLY informs the public that he carries on the above business in Millville, and that he keeps constantly on hand an assortment of

BEAVER, FUR,

AND

WOOL HATS,

Which he will warrant of the best materials, and well manufactured. His shop is on Main Street; and he will feel grateful for a share of patronage.

May 13, 1837.

ASSIGNEE'S SALE.

WILL be sold, at public vendue, on Saturday the 10th day of June next, at the public house of Robert Hachenbuch, at McDowell's Mills, in Bloom township, Columbia county, the following property, viz:—The one undivided sixth part of a

Tract of Land,

Situate in said township of Bloom, adjoining land of John Barton, and bordering on Fishing creek—late the property of John Stettler.

Sale will commence at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, when attendance will be given and terms of sale made known, by

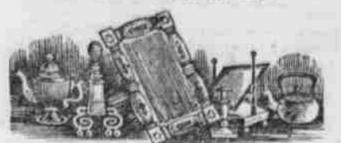
PHILIP STETTLER, Assignee.

May 13, 1837.

NOTICE.

All persons having claims against said Joseph Stettler, are requested to present them at some time and place for settlement, and all persons indebted are solicited to be in attendance and make prompt payment. PHILIP STETTLER, Assignee. May 13, 1837.

NEW GOODS.



The Subscriber

RETURNS his thanks to customers for the patronage which he has received from them since he has commenced business in Bloomsburg. He hopes they will still continue their usual support; and he has now the pleasure of offering them a large and fashionable assortment of SEASONABLE GOODS, which have been carefully selected, embracing the latest style of French, English and American

DRY GOODS,

AMONG WHICH WILL BE FOUND

Cloths, Casimeres and Sattinets, of different styles and colours; Silks; Figured Lawns and Jackonets, European & American Calicoes & Ginghams, Vestings, Damask Table Cloths, Hosiery, Gloves, Bonnet Trimmings, &c. &c.—ALSO, Ladies' Morocco, Seal, & Prunelle Shoes & Slippers, & Men's Shoes and Boots.

TOGETHER WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF



HARDWARE, IRON,

China, Glass

AND

QUEENSWARE:

PAINTS, OILS,

Medicines and Dye-Stuff;

CEDAR-WARE, GROCERIES & LIQUORS,

SALT, FISH, &c.

All of which will be sold on the most reasonable terms. Persons wishing to purchase, are requested to call and examine his stock of Goods, and judge for themselves.

All kinds of country produce will be taken in exchange for goods.

C. B. FISHER.

Bloomsburg, May 6, 1837.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of sundry writs of *Venditioni Expositio*, issued out of the court of Common pleas of Columbia county, and to me directed, will be exposed to public sale, at the court-house in Danville, on Saturday, the 27th day of May next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the following property, to wit: A certain

Tract of Land,

Situate in Bloom township, Columbia county, adjoining lands of William Clark, John Conner, John Vaneer, Conrad Adams, & others, containing EIGHTY ACRES, more or less, whereon is erected a Log



HOUSE & BARN.

Seventy acres are cleared land, and on the premises is an APPLE ORCHARD. Seized, taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of Frederick Rantz and Peter Rantz, Executors of the estate of Frederick Rantz, dec'd. ALSO, a certain

TRACT OF LAND,

Situate in Roaring Creek township, Columbia county, adjoining lands of John Cooper, J. Hurly, Adam Starks, Leonard Roup, George Stine, and others, containing SEVENTY-SEVEN ACRES, more or less—whereon is erected one



LOG HOUSE,

AND A LOG BARN.

About forty-six acres are cleared land. Seized, taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of Jacob Roup. By

ISAIAH SALMON, Sheriff

Sheriff's office, Danville,

April 29, 1837.

Valuable Real Property

FOR RENT.

PROPOSALS will be received by the subscriber, at his residence in Espytown, until the Fourth day of July next, for renting, for one or more years, the following property, to wit:

A Good Farm,

situate in Bloom township, about two and a half miles from Bloomsburg. Also, a



CRIST MILL,

AND

MERCHANT MILL,

situate on said farm, together with a FULING MILL AND FACTORY, on the same premises. Also, a



DWELLING HOUSE,

AND

STORE HOUSE,

with necessary out-buildings, in Bloomsburg, now in the occupancy of Mr. C. B. Fisher.

The preference will be given to those who will rent the whole property. Possession given on the first day of April next.

N. B.—Under the present Lease the MILL will be put in good order, and kept so!

JOHN BARTON.

Espytown, April 29, 1837.

TAKE NOTICE.

THE Subscriber is about leaving this part of the country, & would therefore respectfully invite those in arrears to him on subscription lists, &c., to call on or before the 1st day of June next, and settle with him without further notice.

JEREMIAH SHINDLE.

Bloomsburg, May 6, 1837.

JOHN S. INGRAM,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

OFFERS his professional services to the citizens of Columbia county. He will also attend to business in the several courts of this Judicial district. Law office in the same room with the printing office of the "Columbia Democrat."