

Correspondence.

PHILADELPHIA, August 20th 1840. To the Hon. M. VAN BUREN, President of the United States; DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, a portion of your fellow citizens, request your answer to the following queries:— Are you in favor of a Protective Tariff? Did you vote for, or support a property qualification for voters, in the convention of New York? Are you in favor of reducing the standard of wages? Whether you are in favor of the Secretary of War's plan for organizing the Militia? These questions are not made for the purpose of unfriendly criticism, but only from a sincere wish to have your own views on these subjects. Your fellow citizens, ISAAC LIPPINCOTT, WM. R. POTTS, G. HAINES, N. B. EVANS, A. S. FREEMAN, JOSEPH FRATER.

Direct to Isaac Lippincott, No. 210 Callowhill street.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14, 1840.

GENTLEMEN:— I have received your letter propounding to me several questions upon public subjects, and assuring me that they are not put for the purpose of unfriendly criticism, but from a sincere desire to have my own views on the subjects referred to. In reply to your first and last questions, I send you a copy of a letter recently addressed to several citizens of Elizabeth City County, Va., in which you will find the information you desire.

In answer to your second question, I send you a statement of my entire course in the New York Convention, upon the subject of the elective franchise. It was prepared by my friends at Albany, having access to the best means of information, of their own accord, without previous communication with me, and published there under their own signatures. Upon a careful examination of this document, I find it contains a true and fair exposition of my course in the convention, upon the subject referred to, and I send it to you as such.

Your remaining question is, whether I am in favor of reducing the standard of wages. Not comprehending precisely the idea you desire to convey by the term "the standard of wages," it will be necessary, in order to meet your wishes fully, that I should give my general views on this branch of your inquiry.

The labor of an industrious man is in my judgment only adequately rewarded, when his wages, together with the assistance of those members of his family, from whom assistance may reasonably be required, will enable him to provide comfortably for himself and them, to educate his children, and lay up sufficient for the casualties of life, and the wants of advanced age.

To accomplish these objects, it is necessary that the pay of the laborer should bear a just proportion to the prices of the necessaries and comforts of life; and all attempts to depress them below this equitable standard; are in my opinion at war, as well with the dictates of humanity, as with a sound and rational policy. Left to itself, and to the blighting influence of partial legislation, monopolies congregated wealth, and interested combinations, the compensation of labor will always preserve this salutary relation. It is only when the natural order of society is disturbed by one or other of these causes, that the wages of labor become inadequate.

The people of the United States may be truly denominated a nation of laborers.—A vast proportion of them live by the sweat of their brow, and the continued exercise of a persevering industry. It was with a proper regard to this condition, that the system of government under which they live was originally devised. It should, therefore, in my opinion, be always so administered, as to insure to them, as far as possible, a just and adequate reward for their exertions, as a full enjoyment of the fruits of their industry.

In the distribution of wealth resulting from the union of labor and capital, it is too often the case that an undue proportion falls to the share of the latter. The discontinuance of partial legislation, which I have always advocated, would be an important step towards correcting this inequality.

It has been ever my design to keep these objects constantly in view. So far from being in favor of reducing the wages of labor, or attempting to render the services required disproportionate to the rewards received, it cannot be unknown to you that what is called the ten hour system, originally devised by the mechanics and laborers themselves, has by my directions been adopted and uniformly carried out at all the public establishments, and that this mitigation of labor has been accompanied by no corresponding reduction of wages.

I also caused it to be distinctly intimated in the month of March last, to the officers of such of these establishments, as might contemplate a reduction of wages; that in my opinion the present peculiarly uncertain state of things, which it is believed results from circumstances that cannot be permanent in their operation, does not present a just and proper basis for a reduction of wages.

I am far from wishing to contribute in the slightest degree to the embarrassment and depression of the laboring class. It is on the contrary, my most earnest and constant desire that their industry should every where, and at all times be amply rewarded, and that the blessings should be liberally diffused among those who contribute most to their productions.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, M. VAN BUREN. Messrs. Isaac Lippincott, Wm. R. Potts, G. Haines, N. B. Evans, A. S. Eberman, Jos. Frater.

It is stated that 96,000 muskets have been manufactured at Springfield, Mass. within the last four years.

Schuylkill Bank.

We have published in another page a letter from Mr. Newell, who charges the president and certain directors of the Schuylkill bank with having refused and neglected to arrest Mr. Lewis, the late absconding cashier of that bank, whom Mr. Newell had brought back to this country from Paris. The president and directors have since come out and denied the truth of Mr. Newell's statement. The following is the conclusion of their statement.—The whole transaction, it seems, is still involved in mystery.—Ed. Amer.

On Friday night, (4th September) the ship Scotia arrived at Baltimore. Mr. Newell says that her arrival was known here in Philadelphia on Saturday afternoon. It follows that he might have communicated her arrival and his plans to us by the morning cars from Baltimore. This he wholly neglected to do, and we severally declare that her arrival was not known to us on Saturday afternoon, nor at any time previous to the receipt of his communication on Monday at noon. He arrived here with Lewis on Saturday night about half past eleven o'clock, parted with him on a pledge that he would meet him on Monday morning, and omitted to communicate the fact of his arrival to us until Monday about noon, more than thirty six hours after he had let him go; and, as has since been ascertained, many hours after Mr. Lewis had again made his escape. He then, that is on Monday, at five minutes before noon, writes, and, in person, delivers a note, stating the fact of his arrival in this city with Mr. Lewis, and adds, "no officer being in a tendency to relieve me from duty, Mr. Lewis was consequently under no legal restraint, and is now in this city." He had informed us of Mr. Lewis' arrival at Baltimore, he might have anticipated that an officer would be in attendance; but he had not done so; in fact, he states explicitly, that his great ambition (he acting as our agent!) was to obtain a triumph over us, by introducing Mr. Lewis to us in the back on Monday morning, to our confusion and dismay; an ambition wholly inconsistent with his more obvious and very apparent duty, that of introducing him to a police officer on Saturday night. He adds: "In this particular, Mr. Lewis thought proper not to comply with the pledge given at the moment of our separation on Saturday night." We conclude fairly that it was not until after this dis-appointment, that Mr. Newell wrote the note which he delivered in person about noon on Monday, informing us of his arrival, and stating that he found no officer in attendance to relieve him from duty; and we conclude further, that due to the natural question of the president—"But, Mr. Newell, where is he?" he replied, "I suppose he is at home"—he had very good reasons to suppose he was "not at home."

On receiving notice of the arrival of Mr. Lewis, the Board promptly communicated the fact to the Attorney General. So much, gentlemen, for the charge which you have countenanced or having thought our agent. We will now, in a few words, state the facts bearing on the question of our own performance of our duty to the public. On Wednesday, the 2d of September, 1840, Mr. Brooke, the assistant Attorney General for this county, was informed by the president of the bank of the daily expected arrival at Baltimore of Mr. Lewis, in the ship Scotia; and, in reply, stated that he would take prompt measures for his arrest. Our duty was thus performed. You will agree that it was no part of our duty to proclaim in the streets that the Attorney General was prepared for the emergency. That active, intelligent, and estimable officer, performed his duty. Bench warrants were issued on the same day, and placed in the hands of the police officers, with minute instructions. Mr. Brooke seems to have thought that it was not his duty to proclaim that fact in the streets. The police officers appear to have done their duty. As Mr. Newell gave no intelligence of his expected arrival, an officer was in attendance at the arrival of the case on Thursday and Friday night, and at the steambath on the afternoon of those days. On Saturday night, the fifth instant, at the arrival of the case, two officers were in attendance with the bench warrants. The circumstances are fully detailed in the affidavits annexed. On that night, according to Mr. Newell's statement, Messrs. Newell and Lewis arrived here in the car. The name of neither was on the way bill.—Two officers of justice, with a bench warrant, were in waiting at the car office. There were but twenty-six passengers altogether. At that hour of the night, there was of course, no crowd or confusion from persons passing, the streets being empty. Messrs. Newell and Lewis separated on Saturday night, it seems, on an appointment to meet on Monday morning. THE LATTER HAS ESCAPED.

We are, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient servants and fellow citizens. JOHN P. WETHERILL, President. JACOB L. SHARPE, STACY B. BANCROFT, W. YARDLEY, JR., GEO. W. CARPENTER, H. CATHERWOOD, ANTHONY S. MORRIS, D. DEAL, S. M. J. HENDERSON, R. R. LEVICK, Directors.

WOMEN AND POLITICS. The men are determined to talk of nothing but politics, and the women most join in, or remain entirely silent. They could find no hearers now, did they not accommodate their conversation to the times. Therefore, we say, are they wise—cunning as serpents, the jakes—harmless as doves the dea creatures. Like the lady in the play, they "stoop to conquer." Let the election turn out as it will, the women will be O. K. Many an honest Democrat, who thinks he is only admitting some pretty woman's good sense, as he hears her doing the sub-treason, is actually creating a private subscription, putting his own heart into it and giving the Democrat in petticoats the keys. Whether M.

Van Buren is elected or not—she is sure to be—president of a house-hold.

On the other hand, the whig admirer of the female half of log cabin auditors don't know the trap he is in. The ladies don't go to such convocations for nothing—not they. They are looking further than next November—mothers looking for their daughters, and daughters looking for themselves. That log cabin cut, got out by our neighbors of the New Era, would be well labelled "Trap to catch Huskards." The matches made by these political gatherings, are innumerable; and the young men who flatter themselves that they are laboring for the "liberties of the country," have sold their own. Give us the woman for management, ye!

Brother Jonathan.

THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, October 3, 1840.

ELECTORAL TICKET.

- JAMES CLARKE, of Indiana, Senatorial. GEO. G. LEIFER, of Delaware, Senatorial. 1. George W. Snick, 12. Frederick Smith, 2. Benjamin Mollin, 13. Charles McClure, Frederick Stover, 14. J. M. Gommell, 3. Wm. H. Smith, 15. G. M. Hollenback, 4. John P. Steinman, 16. Leonard Pfutz, John Dowlin, 17. John Horton, J. Henry Myers, 18. William Philon, 5. Daniel Jacoby, 19. John Morrison, 6. Jesse Johnson, 20. Westly Fries, 7. Jacob Able, 21. Benj. Anderson, 8. Geo. Christian, 22. William Wilkins, 9. Wm. Shoemaker, 23. A. K. Wright, 10. Henry DeHull, 24. John Findley, 11. Henry Logan, 25. Stephen Barlow

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

- HON. J. C. BUCHER, OVID F. JOHNSON, JAMES PEACOCK, BENJAMIN PARKER, JOHN M. FORSTER, E. W. HUTTNER, MICHAEL BURKE, JACOB BAER, HERMAN ALBRICHS, PETER HAY, JOSEPH C. NEAL, DAVID LYN H., H. H. VAN ANRINDEN, Dauphin, Philadelphia, Pittsb'g.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

FOR PRESIDENT, Martin Van Buren.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT, Richard M. Johnson.

FOR GOVERNOR, Gen. David R. Porter.

FOR CONGRESS, JOHN SNYDER.

FOR ASSEMBLY, CHARLES W. HEGINS.

(Who had 14 votes in the Democratic Delegation.)

JESSE C. HORTON.

(Who had 13 votes in the Delegation.)

* Neither candidate having a majority of the whole, the Convention unanimously resolved they would make no nomination but suffer each one to run on his own merits. C. W. Hegins having received the highest number of votes should, according to democratic usages be considered the choice of the party.

FOR COMMISSIONERS, WILLIAM SHANNON, JACOB RHODES.

FOR AUDITOR, HUGH H. TEATS.

WHIG CANDIDATES.

FOR CONGRESS, JAMES MERRILL.

COMMISSIONER, JOSEPH BOUND.

AUDITOR, ELIDA JOHN.

A Chance.

The friends of Horton, in order to deceive the people, have reported that this press after the election will come out in favour of the Whigs. Now we state to all who are subscribers to our paper, or may choose to subscribe, that they may withdraw their subscriptions as soon as we change our politics, and that we will not charge them one cent for the subscription to our paper, in that event.

How comes it that there are not five democrats in the borough of Sunbury who will vote against C. W. Hegins. According to the statement of Horton's friends, there will not be any democrats left after the election. And how comes it that all the secret enemies of Gov. Porter are in favor of Horton. The Milton Ledger has quoted a number of papers opposed to Charles W. Hegins. It is a well known fact that every one of these papers have been recently opposed to Gov. Porter, and have been forced to come back to his support by the voice of public opinion in his favor. What stronger evidence can the people have, that Horton is not a true democrat.

How many thousand dollars did Horton get for "Extra Pay" as mail contractor, for services never performed? How many thousand does he expect for his job on the canal? We say to our farmers, if you do not want to pay heavy state taxes, never send speculators or contractors to the legislature. Let the contract be once put a smy city in the legislature, and you will see the same debt increased eight or ten millions in a few years. What do they care for a yearly state tax of twenty or thirty dollars, when they can make thousands out of their contract?

The Contractor a would-be Farmer.

When did Jesse C. Horton become a democrat? is a question frequently asked, but not so easily answered. It is but a few years since he was a citizen of the state of New York, which can be shown by the records of the Court. He came to this county as a mail contractor, for which he received large sums of money as "Extra Pay" for work which he never done. Now he has suddenly become a democrat, and calls himself a farmer; because he has been able to get a farm out of the "EXTRA PAY" money he got from the government. Would the people like to know what kind of a farmer he is? If they do just let them go to the canal above Northum'erland. They will find him there turning several "Locks" for which he is to reap a harvest of upwards of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. The next thing to be done is to get him into the Legislature. The hall of the House of Representatives will be a most glorious place to witness our his crop. The few democratic friends who are now pushing him forward have also a finger in the pie! They have a share in the crop, and know very well when Farmer Horton gets to Harrisburg, the way that he will thrash the dollars out of the treasury will be a caution to the farmers who don't farm Locks on the canal. "Horton must get there," say the speculators and contractors; "We want more money and we want more jobs, and as Horton will vote for money to pay himself, we will come in for a share of the plunder." Thus our democratic farmers can see what kind of a democrat and farmer Jesse C. Horton is. Lewis Dewart, who has been so grossly slandered and abused by Horton's friends, does more farming and has done more work with his own hands in one week than Horton has done, or will do in six months. We say beware of contractors who want to go the legislature for the purpose of voting thousands of dollars into their own pockets.

Brother Jonathan.

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contractor into office, who has received thousands from the public treasury as "EXTRA PAY" for carrying the mail, and now wants to go to the Legislature to vote himself a few thousands extra pay for his contract on the canal.

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Falschood Exposed.

We publish below a refutation of one of the hundred falsehoods contained in the last Milton Ledger. The Ledger first verbally charged Mr. Donnell next in his paper, ourselves, and having been exposed in these attempts at falsehood, he now fixes the charge on Mr. Dewart, and gives Mr. Peter Haughwout, a respectable citizen of Rush town ship, as the author. Mr. Haughwout comes out publicly, and shows that the Ledger has uttered another falsehood. The Ledger says: "Some further evidence.—For the special edition of the Sunbury Lawyers, we state that Lewis Dewart told Mr. Peter Haughwout, of Rush town ship, that Gov. Porter had written to Charles W. Hegins urging him to become a candidate for re-election. Dewart also stated to Mr. H. that he wished to have Hegins return to the Legislature, because he wanted the Union canal widened!" "RUSH TOWNSHIP, Sept. 28, 1840.

"MR. MESSRS. MASSER & EISEL—I wish to let you know that Mr. Dieffelbach was wrong, in stating in his last Milton Ledger, that I had said that Mr. Dewart told me that Governor Porter had written to Mr. Hegins, urging him to become a candidate for re-election. Mr. Dewart never told me any such thing, and I never said he had. He said that he had understood that the Governor had expressed a wish that Mr. Hegins would come back again. As to the Union canal, Mr. D. would never say anything to me about it, and I never told you, nor any one else, that he had.

"PETER HAUGHWOUT." Caught in a falsehood again, Mr. Dieffelbach—er! Are you not ashamed of yourself! If you are not, those who hire you ought to be.

The False Charges.

Among the many falsehoods that have been published respecting the votes of Mr. Hegins in the Legislature, are those in which it is stated that he voted for a resolution to raise the pay of the members to four dollars a day, and an act to add to the salaries of the judges the sum of \$400 per year. To show the utter destitution of truth which characterizes these charges, we publish to day the sections offered on these subjects, with the yeas and nays thereon. It will be perceived that Mr. Hegins was opposed to both these acts, a vote cast against them. His name is recorded among the yeas on both questions, as may be seen by the Journal, to the respective pages of which we refer those who wish to pursue the examination. The whole list of reasons why Mr. Hegins should not be re-elected, which have been published in the "L. J." and "Gazette," are equally as destitute of truth, as the prominent matters to which we have referred. They are all false and cannot be proved.

Salaries of the Judges.

The Ledger and Sunbury Gazette have respectively affirmed, that Mr. Hegins voted to add \$400 to the salaries of the judges. He voted AGAINST it, as the following extract from the Journal of 1838-9 vol. 1, page 1480, will prove. The bill from the Journal, entitled "an act to incorporate the Eastern Iron Company," being under consideration, Mr. T. S. Smith moved to amend the section by adding the following words thereto: "That from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, each of the judges of the Supreme Court of this commonwealth shall receive an addition of four hundred dollars per annum to his present salary, each of the judges learned in the law of the several courts of the city of Philadelphia an increase of six hundred dollars per annum; each of the judges learned in the law of the several courts in the county of Allegheny, an increase of five hundred dollars per annum, and each of the resident judges of the several courts of common pleas within this commonwealth and the president judge of the district court composed of the counties of Erie, Crawford, and Venango, an increase of four hundred dollars per annum to their present salaries; said increase to be paid in the same manner their present salaries are payable.

And on the question, will the house agree so to amend? The yeas and nays were required by Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Hill of Berks, and are as follows, viz: YEAS. Messrs. Besty, Broadhead, Bruner, Carathers, Casel, Cox, Crab, J. Cunningham, T. S. Cunningham, D. Her, Ehrman, Field, Funk, Gratz, Humlin, Helffstein, J. Herr, Hinchman, Hutchins, Keedig, Kettlewell, Kingle, Konimaker, Lavery, Long, M'Dowell, M'Kinstry, N. S. Pitt, Penrose, Pray, Puviance, Richerson, Ritter, Ryan, Sheriff, Smith of Franklin, G. R. Smith, T. S. S. Smith, Spackman, Stevens, Sturdevant, Wats, Way, Wilcox, Zelina.—45

REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF JUSTICE.

A few weeks since we published an extract from the Miltonian, shewing that Horton and his friends were in favor of removing the county seat from Sunbury to Northumberland. Mr. Youngman said it was false, as he had read that paper and did not see it. Now we ask every honest man to look at the Miltonian published on the 12th September 1st, and see whether we have not stated the truth and Mr. Youngman an untruth. The paper can be seen at our office at any time.

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

We publish in this week's paper, an excellent letter from Mr. Van Buren, in answer to a committee of gentlemen of Philadelphia, respecting his opinion of the tariff, the wages of labor, &c. It will be seen that Mr. Van Buren's views are those of a sound democrat and a true friend of his country. Let every one who is desirous of knowing the President's opinions on these important subjects, read the letter.

DAILY PAY.

Mr. Hegins has been charged by his opponents with having voted to raise the wages of the members of the legislature to four dollars a day. The newspapers that published the slander, merely make the statement, and do not publish extracts from the journals of the house, so as to spread the whole proceeding before the people. The following is the bill that was before the house on the subject, and Mr. Hegins voted against it. The act of 1814 referred to, raised the wages to four dollars per day, and the act of 1821 reduced them to three, which is the price now paid to members. If the act of 1821 had been repealed, and that of 1814 revised, as proposed in the following section, the daily pay would have been raised again to four dollars. We make these preparatory remarks, that all our readers may understand the question that was before the house. The 5th section of bill No. 336 being before the house, viz: V. 1, term 1838-9, page 616, Resolved, That the first section of an act, entitled an act reducing the salaries of sundry public officers, and daily pay of members of the legislature, passed January 18, A. D. 1821, be, and the same is hereby repealed, and the said act, to which this is a supplement, entitled an act providing for