

CIRCULAR.

THE VOTERS OF ATTALA COUNTY.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In coming before me as a candidate to represent you in the Representative branch of our State Legislature, I have yielded less to my inclinations than to the repeated suggestions of public sentiment from various parts of the county; and I am influenced more by a wish to do some noble service to my county, than to gratify the suggestions of a party or personal ambition.

It is my duty, therefore, in conformity to republican usage, to give a candid position of my sentiments; and as I have no reason for concealment, I most perfectly lay them before you, with all candor due to truth and our relative positions. I am a republican, ardently attached to the complex system of government framed by our forefathers, and anxious to preserve it, by maintaining the dignity of the States, and restricting the power of the General Government to the exercise of those powers conferred by the constitution. The preservation of the States and their reserved rights, is the most important administration of our domestic concerns, the sure bulwark against anti-republican tendencies; and the preservation of the General Government in wholesome constitutional vigor, the great anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad.

I believe that the people are the source of all power, and that officers and representatives are the mere servants and trustees of the people; that the people have a right to instruct their representatives, and that it is the duty of the representative to obey such instructions, resign his trust; and he who will do either is no longer worthy of their confidence. And last, though not least, the elective franchise, which gives to every man the power of voting for whomsoever he pleases, should be forever preserved inviolate.

These cardinal principles constitute the basis of my political creed, and are the main pillars in the temple of liberty upon which is reared the simple and beautiful superstructure of our republican government.

I will now, Fellow Citizens, take a brief consideration of the topics which now, and for some time to come, are likely to attract the largest share of public interest and attention. And by far the most exciting and vitally important to the interests of the community at large, is the present deranged state of the currency, and the consequent pecuniary embarrassed situation of the people. Our country, a few years since, was moving on, without impediment, to an unexampled greatness and glory—nature had spread before her population an inviting and quickly occupied field for enterprise; but the hum of an industrious and happy prosperity, which has never been surpassed in the history of our country, has just passed away, and the genius of ruin appears to meet us on every hand. We have a depreciated currency—loss of confidence—many suspended banks—and every thing drooping. And why is it that so great and fearful a change has been wrought? This is a question that has employed the attention of almost every man in the community, some ascribing it to one cause, and some to another.

A humble individual, who possesses no superior advantages to trace effects to the causes, but who would always express an independent opinion, I believe that the causes are almost as multifarious as the effect is deleterious. It is unnecessary for me to enquire into the various causes which have produced this diseased condition of the body politic, except so far as they may be calculated to point out the proper remedy for the malady. A moment's reflection upon the intimate connection between the currency and the various pursuits of life, will be sufficient to satisfy any unbiassed mind, that any derangement to which it may be extensively subjected, is adequate to the production of the evils we suffer; because such derangement imparts a character of distrust, uncertainty and fluctuation in all our engagements.

But a few years have passed away since we had one of the best currencies in the world—bank notes of the denomination of five dollars and upwards, which were equal to specie, and of uniform value every where, and for pocket change we had the precious metals in abundance; but in promise of a still better currency, the shipplaster system—the offspring of experiment—has come upon us. This illegitimate system, let it come from what source it may, ought not to receive a welcome reception among us; it is a disgrace to our country and should no longer be tolerated.

I believe that the derangement of our currency, in the first place, was principally brought about by an unnecessary and uncalled for interference on the part of the General Government, with the monetary concerns of the country. It was determined that the United States Bank, or a similar institution, should not be chartered; and State banks were immediately created all over the country to supply the deficiency in the circulation, to be occasioned by its withdrawal. These State banks, having no check on their issues, and being so great in num-

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WILLIAM E. SMITH,

["WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY."]

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ber, and chartered in a loose and injudicious manner, expanded their issues to an enormous amount. Property and labor rose in price; speculation became rife, (for experience has conclusively proven that when a people have more money than their ordinary wants require, it begets in them a spirit of speculation,) and in the rage for getting rich the common dictates of prudence were, to some extent, overlooked. Those who were worth ten thousand dollars tho't they were worth twenty thousand, by the bloated and fictitious price given by the newly adopted system of banking. In this condition of things the Specie Circular was issued. The banks soon discovered its operation upon them—commenced curtailing their issues—refused further accommodation—specie was in great demand, and was drawn in large amounts from the vaults of the banks, for investments in land. Public confidence in the ability of the banks to redeem their notes, became impaired, and finally the banks and individuals dependant on them had to suspend payment; and the price of property and labor all went down. This then is the sum of the evil, we have in lieu of gold and silver, which was promised us—a greatly depreciated paper medium, which effects the trade and industry of the nation, and paralyzes the national arm, which sullies the credit, both public and private, of the United States—a currency no longer resting on gold and silver as its basis, but on assumption light as air. If these things are so—and I think they are—is it not reasonable to suppose that we should return to the remedy while we have the power; but perhaps we have not tried experiments long enough.

In 1811 the constitutional power was urged by some of the republican party against the re-charter of the U. S. Bank with the same success that has attended the efforts of many good republicans of the present day. The same evils came upon the country then, and in the same way. The pride and obstinacy of the politicians of that day refused to adopt the remedy they had thrown away, until all their experiments had been tried and failed. The republican party having a majority in both houses of Congress, with that great constitutional lawyer, James Madison, at their head, yielded to the necessity of the times, and acknowledged that a United States Bank was a necessary and proper means of carrying into effect the enumerated power of Congress, and by a large majority chartered the late U. S. Bank.—And what was the consequence? Why, in a short time the whole face of things seemed to have undergone a magical change. From experience, then, I am in favor of a National Bank, free from the objectional features of the old bank, and free from foreign influence and from executive control, with a branch in each State of the Union that might desire it. The establishment of such a system or institution would greatly assist, and is a measure best calculated, to restore public confidence in our institutions.—It is necessary as an agent to regulate the currency, to furnish a general circulating medium, and to regulate the disorders in our domestic exchanges, by receiving and disbursing the public revenue without expense or loss, exercising a wholesome auxiliary influence over the State banks, and furnishing a currency equal to specie over all parts of the United States.

As to its constitutionality I have no doubt. The fact of its having existed the greater portion of the time since the formation of our government, under the sanction of the great father of our country, George Washington, and a majority of our wise rulers who succeeded him, and also the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in its favor, is good and substantial evidence of its constitutionality, because there are cases in which we must act on implied powers. This, I believe, is not controverted—but the implication must be necessary, and obviously flow from the enumerated powers with which it is allied. But I believe, valuable as this object of attainment may be, it may be purchased at too great and perilous a price. I would say, therefore, that any bank charter should be scrupulously guarded from susceptibilities of too great political influence from the government or its departments, on the one hand, whilst on the other it should be watchfully restrained in all its capacities for undue exertions of political power on its part towards the government and the people. I think it very important that a National Bank should embody in its charter assumptions to a reasonable extent of the two principles above indicated.

As to our State Banking system, I believe there is great room for reform. But few of them pay specie. And as to those that are unwilling or unable to

redeem their notes as they promise, some adequate penalty or damages should be laid upon them so as to make it extremely unprofitable for them to suspend. The indisposition of many of our banks arises from motives of interest, obviously growing out of the vast profits many of them have lately realized upon their stock. The interest of a bank is gain; and they will not willingly relinquish their gain without restraint and without hazard. Banks must change their nature and their instinct before they will aid in doing what is not their interest to do. Our banks were created alone, to advance the interest and perpetuate the welfare of the State; and those that have abused their privilege by the prodigality of their engagements without means to fulfil them are detrimental to the public good, and should no longer exist. They should no longer be suffered to impose on the country with their false promises, and to meet the honest yeoman of the country in disguise.

I am of opinion that the nominal banking capital of the State is too great—more than the commerce or wealth of the State demands. Our chartered banking capital exceeds sixty millions of dollars. I believe that we may with safety use a banking capital equal in amount to the annual value of the whole productive labor of the State, appropriated for purposes of commerce, which is about thirty millions of dollars. It may, perhaps, be thought that I have said more on this subject than was necessary; but the regulation of the currency is one of the highest attributes of sovereignty, and is so intimately connected with our country's prosperity that we should look well to its regulation. It will not probably be amiss in me to give my views upon the Sub-Treasury scheme. I believe the tendency of the scheme would bring the public treasure too near the custody of the President, and too much under his control. It would prove to be disorganizing and too great an enlargement of executive power and patronage. As a consequence of the system, the State banks and the coin of the country would furnish the only remaining currency.—Assuming, as I believe, it to be a fact, that the State banks, left to themselves, can never furnish a uniform currency; and as the government, in collecting its revenue, is bound to collect it equal, it is no more of a design in the system than it is a necessary result, that as there will remain no other uniform currency than a metallic, the government, in collecting its revenue equal, must collect it in specie. This collecting of specie by the government would effectually prostrate the whole State bank system, as directly as if such had been its original design and would reduce us at once to an exclusive metallic currency. And what political dreamer of this enlightened age and nation, who looks calmly at the busy mass of American people, pushing their various enterprise into all extremes and imaginable pursuits, can believe it possible to drive back the expanding energies of the age into a nutshell, and quiet down its gigantic efforts to the piddling system of an exclusive metallic currency.

It is impracticable because it would demand for its accomplishment, a retrograde movement in our national prosperity which will not voluntarily be submitted to, because the people can never be so cheated out of their prosperity. It is physically impracticable, because the precious metals are insufficient in amount to afford us a supply for such a currency, corresponding to the demands of our trade. But another principle assumed in adopting the system, is to cut the government loose in all its principal concerns—from all sympathy and interest, and monetary revisions, common to the people, arising from the unstable currency afforded by the State institutions; and whatever may be their sufferings from these causes, the government, like a pampered monster, must be fed from the collectings of its revenue, with its daily allowance from the people, and sate its appetite by swallowing up the specie, the life-blood of the State banks, in its easy and undisturbed support. Thus the system furnishes two currencies, a gold and silver currency for the government and its officers, and a depreciated State currency for the honest laborers, whose toils have raised our happy republic from a few dependant colonies to the highest pinnacle of national fame. Yes, fellow citizens, this I fear will be the tendency of their schemes. But I think the noble husbandman of our land deserves as good a currency as the government or its officers. And should we have no other currency left us, but a greatly depreciated State currency, it would be so intolerable for its citizens, that it would be best for us at once to settle upon the precious metals, however in-

convenient or impracticable it might be. If we can't have a paper currency equal to specie, we should have none at all.

I am opposed to the doctrine which gives to Congress the power to enact tariff laws for the encouragement of manufactures, or to create a fund to carry on internal improvements. I believe it is impolitic, unconstitutional, oppressive to agriculture and Southern interests.

I am in favor of Congress' granting pre-emptions to actual settlers in new country, on the public lands. I believe it is justice, because the laboring man who literally tills the country and has to encounter the hardships and privations of a pioneer—who has to brave every storm to surmount every difficulty—sure to themselves and their families a home, is entitled to a pre-emption according to the genius of our institutions.

Our State has natural resources unsurpassed by any State in the Union. We are destined, with proper legislative action to develop them, to take our stand at no distant day, on the high eminence of equality with any State in the Union. In furtherance of this object, I am in favor of applying our distributive share of the surplus revenue in opening our navigable streams, that the middle and northern portions of our State may be brought into the immediate enjoyment of those advantages which nature has so beautifully marked out for us, and which the productiveness of our soil, superior climate, and pure water, so eminently demand. A moderate appropriation by the Legislature, to the clearing out of Big Black river would be of vital importance to the interests of this county; it would give us a temporary market within our own bounds and would answer us a valuable purpose in the transportation of our products.

Our University fund now amounts to more than three hundred thousand dollars. We should employ a part of this fund without delay in the erection and organization of a State University, on a broad and liberal scale, at a healthy central situation, which would bring it in our county; so that by educating our children at home in our own State, we may save the large sum of money that is annually expended abroad for this object. As intelligence and public virtue are essential to the preservation of our free institutions, I would therefore be in favor of adopting some easy system of education that would place the means of learning alike within the reach of the orphan and the child of opulence. The path to preferment should be made equally as plain to the honest laborer as to the most opulent citizen. With properly regulated free schools for the admission of all who may be disposed to enter and avail themselves of the high privilege of instruction, we might fondly hope to see, at no distant day, the great moral and intellectual improvement of our youth.

It will not be expected, fellow citizens, that in an address like this I should advert to all the schemes of local policy involved in the future legislation of our State, or that will be of advantage to the community; but I have given my views concisely on the most important topics that now interest us. In doing this, I have not condescended to a Billingsgate denunciation of those who think differently from me; but it is my wish, and I feel gratified, that in this republican land, we are secured in the enjoyment of our opinions, our persons and our property, without molestation.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that I am a native Mississippian, born and raised in the State, and all I possess in the world, and all that is near and dear to me, is in this State. I am a planter, and rely on the products of the soil for my support. It cannot, therefore, be doubted but that our interests are the same, and that we would be effected alike by all measures of county and State policy.

Fellow Citizens, should you deem me worthy of your confidence, and choose me to represent you in the next Legislature, I would feel grateful for the honor conferred, and tender you assurances that my best exertions would be used to discharge the duties incident to the station with due regard to the interests of our county, and the lasting interest of the State.

But, on the contrary, should you prefer my worthy opponent, I shall cheerfully acquiesce in the result without a murmur; and my best wishes, as a private citizen, shall still be breathed for the happiness and prosperity of the State.

EBENEZER M. WELLS.

Kosciusko, September 21, 1839.

Why is a basket of oysters like an unpaid bill?

Because a fellow must shell out before he can fork over.

BAPTISM.

We learn from the Natchez Free Trader of yesterday, that on Sunday last, the Rev. Mr. Bradley immersed four ladies in the "King of Streams," at Natchez. The spectacle must have been truly imposing to the observing—to see a large concourse of citizens thronging the banks of the Mississippi, and looking on with intense silence and admiration at a scene so solemn—and to behold these delicate creatures throw aside the characteristic timidity of the sex, boldly walk down into the deep and cheerfully submit themselves to be immersed in water according to the letter of the Gospel, could not fail to have the desired effect and to work a salutary influence in the mind of the spectator and to call forth the universal admiration of all who witnessed the interesting ceremony. These delicate, sensitive, yet heroic beings felt proud of the opportunity afforded them to march down into the water in imitation of their Lord and Saviour, to be buried unto him—to put him on as their guide—to acknowledge themselves willing to be directed by his wholesome and divine instructions—to turn their backs upon vice—to deny themselves the pleasures and luxuries of life, that may be opposed to the spirit of his gospel—and to gain a crown that well might be sought after in preference to the most magnificent diadem that ever adorned the brow of earth's richest monarch. The purest joys—the richest blessings—the greatest charms that this world affords—when compared to that inheritance described in the book of God—will fade before it as the light of the star before the rising sun of day.

A good example this, to those who follow the prince of darkness, without any other reward than a sensual gratification of animal feelings which often brings punishment on his votaries of the most unhappy character, even in this world.

Such examples are worthy of imitation and the converted ladies deserve the highest praise for their moral courage—and the more hardened and intractable man, would exhibit secret shame when called upon to acknowledge his Saviour and suffer himself to be immersed in water in the presence of a multitude. The history of woman is peculiarly marked with moral courage and submission to the Saviour of the world. For who nursed the King of the world, but woman? Who bathed his feet with tears of affection and wiped them with her hair, but woman. Who, before day had scarce thrown its smallest ray of light on the grave of Jesus, was first there, but woman. Who had the honor of first announcing the resurrection of the great conqueror of the grave, but woman. She is always prepared for deeds of excellence, wisdom and virtue.

We are neither Baptist nor Campbellite—nor are these remarks intended as a vindication of immersion. We have often witnessed the ceremony and are impressed with an idea as to the solemnity of the administration of Baptism—and our object is to compliment the ladies for the noble example set by them to the multitude before them.

TO YOUNG MEN.

There is no moral obligation so beautiful to me as a conscientious young man. I watch him as I do a star in the heavens; clouds may be before him, but we know his light is behind them, and will beam again; the blaze of others' popularity may outshine him, but we know that though unknown he illumines his own true sphere. He resists temptation, and it stings him, for that is the trial of virtue, but he heals the wound with his own pure touch. He heeds not the watch word of fashion, if it leads to sin; the atheist, who says, not only in his own heart, but with his lips, "there is no God," controls him not; he sees the hand of a creating God and rejoices in it.

Woman is sheltered by fond arms, and loving counsel; old age is protected by its experience, and manhood by its strength, but the young man stands amid the temptations of the world, like a self-balanced tower; happy he who seeks and gains the prop of morality.

Onward, then, conscientious youth! raise thy standard and nerve thyself for goodness. If God has given thee intellectual power, awaken in that cause; never let it be said of thee, he helped swell the tide of sin, by pouring his influence into its channels. If thou art feeble in mental strength, throw not that drop into a polluted current. Awake arise, young man! assume the beautiful garb of virtue! It is fearfully easy to sin; it is difficult to be pure and holy. Put on thy strength then! let thy chivalry be roused against error! let the Truth be the Lady of thy love—defend her.—Southern Rose.

Man is strong, woman is beautiful; man is daring and confident, woman is diffident and unassuming; man shines abroad, woman at home; man talks to convince, woman to persuade and please; man has a rugged heart, woman a soft and tender one; man prevents misery, woman sensibility; man is a being of justice, woman of mercy.