Mr. Catrett Jr

EASTERN-SHORE WHIG AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS PERPETUAL VIGILANCE."

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(PUBLISHER OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION.)

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☞ All communications to insure attention should be *post paid*

BY AUTHORITY.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

[PUBLIC No 8.]

AN ACT to prevent the abatement of suits and actions now pending, in which the late Bank of the United States may be a party.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no suit, action, judgment or degree, now pending and unsatisfied, in which the late Bank of the United States is a party plaintiff or defendant, shall abate, or be discontinued or dismissed, by reason of the expiration of the two years after the expiration of the charter, limited by the twenty first section of the act of incorporation of the said bank for the use of the corporate name, style, and capacity of said bank, for the prupose of suits for the final settlement and liquidation of the affairs and accounts of the corporation; but all such suits, actions, judgments and decrees shall be allowed to proceed final judgment, execution satisfaction and settlement, as if the said two years had not expired.

[PUBLIC No. 11.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the payment of the Revolutionary and other pensioners of the United States, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, in addition to former appropriations to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the pentioners of the United States. for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight.

For the Revolutionary pensioners, under several acts, other than those of the fifteenth of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, the seventh of June, one thousand eight hudred and thirty two; and the fourth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty six, four hundred and twenty six thousand seven hundren and seventy two dollars.

For the invalid pensioners, under various laws, one hundred and thirty four thousand and seventy five dollars and sixty two cents.

For pensions to widows and orphans, under the act of the fourth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty six, one millions four hundred and ninety two thousand six hundred and eighty-five dollars.

For half-pay pensions, payable through the office of the Third Auditor, five thousand dollars.

APPROVED, March 10, 1838.

[PUBLIC No. 12.]

AN ACT to change the times of holding the circuit and district courts of the United States in the seventh circuit.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the circuit and district courts of the United States shall be held in the district of Indiana, at the seat of Government in said State, on the third Monday of May and November; at the seat of Government in the district of Illinois on the first Mondays of June and December; in the districts of Michigan, at the seat of Government in said State, on the third Monday in June and first Monday in November; and in the district of Ohio, at the seat of Gov- in said State, on the first Mouday of July and the third Monday in December; and all recognizances entered into, and all means and final proces, which have been issued, or which shall hereafter be issued shall be returnable in the respective districts to the first term as above established: And it shall be the duty of the circuit judge, to attend one circuit court in each year, in the districts of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, and should any question of law be raised, in any case, in the absence of the circuit judge, the district judge may, at his discretion, adjourn the cause to the succeeding term of the circuit court.

APPROVED, March 10 1838.

[PUBLIC, No. 14.]

AN ACT to restore circuit jurisdiction to the districts courts of the western district of Virginia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the third section of the act entitled "An act supplementary to the act entitled 'An act to amend the judicial system of the United States,' "approved March third, eighteen hundred and thirty seven, as repeals all former acts, or parts of acts, conferring circuit court jurisdiction on certain district courts therein named, be, and the same is hereby repealed, so far as relates to the courts of the western district of Virginia, and that the district courts of said district exercise the same jurisdiction with which it was invested previous to the passage of said act.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That all cause transferred by authority of said act from the said districts courts to the Circuit Court directed by law to be held in the town of Lewisburg, in the State of Virginia, and which remain undetermined be removed back to the distaict courts from whence they were transferred, to be there finally determined,

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That appellate jurisdiction from the judgments or decrees of the said district courts of the western districts of Virginia, as now authorized by law, shall be exercised by the said circuit court at Tewisburg.

APPROVED, March 28, 1838.

[PUBLIC. No. 18.]

AN ACT to amend the act for quieting possessions, enrolling conveyances, and securing the estates of purchasers, within the District of Columbia, passed the thirty-first day of May, eighteen hundred and thirty-two,

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the clerks of the circuit courts of the District of Columbia, and their respective counties, shall be; and are hereby, authorized and required to admit to record and any conveyance whereby a right, title, or interest, in real estate is conveyed, or purports to be, lying within the limits of their respective counties, upon the certificate under seal of any two justices of the peace of any State or Territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, annexed to such deed, and to the following effect, to wit: ——County [or Corporation, &c.] to wit:

We, A B and C D, justices of the peace in and for the county [or corporation, or parish, or district,] aforesaid, in the State [or Territory, or diatrict,] of——, do dereby certify that E F, a party [or E F and G H, &c. parties,] to a certain deed, bearing date on the——day of——and hereto annexed, personally appeared before us in our county [for corporation, &c] aforesaid, the said E F [or E F and G H &c.] being personally well known to us, as [or provided by the oaths of credible witnesses before us to be] the person [or persons] who executed the said deed, and acknowledged the same to be his, [her, or their] act and deed, Given under our hands and seals this ——day of——

A B. [SEAL.]
C D. [SEAL]

Provided, That, when such acknowledgment shall be taken before any justices of the peace beyond the limits of the District of Columbia, there shalt accompanying such certificate, of acknowledgment, a certificate of the clerk or other public officer having official cognizance of the official character of the said justices of the said certificate, in fact, justices as they purport to be.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That every conveyance, covenant, agreement and other deed; (except deeds of trust and mortgages) which shall be acknowledged or proved, and certified, according to law, and delivered to the clerk of the proper court, to be recorded within six months after the sealing and delivery thereof, shall take effect and be valid as to all persons from the time of such acknowledgment or proof; but all deeds of trust and mortgages, whensoever they shall be delivered to the clerk of the proper court to be recorded, and all other conveyances, covenants agreements, and deeds, which shall not be acknowledged, proved, or certified, and delivered to the clerk of the proper court to be recorded within six month after the sealing and delivering thereof, shall take effect and be valid, as to all subsequent purchasers of valuable consideration, without notice, and as to all creditors, form the time when such deed of trust or mortgage, or such ether conveyance, covenant, agreement, or deed, shall have been so acknowledged, proved, or certified, and delivered to the clerk of the proper court to be resorded, and from that time only: Provided however. That if two or more deeds containing the same property, after having been so acknowtedged, or proved and certified, be delivered to the clerk to be recorded on the same day, that which shall have been first sealed and delivered shall have preference in law.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That every title-bond, or other written contract in relation to land, may be proved, acknowledged certified, and recorded, in the same manner as deeds for the conveyance of land; and such proof or acknowledgment, and certificate, and the delivery of such bond or contract to the clerk of the proper court, to be recorded, shall be taken and held to be notice to all subsequent purchasers of the existence of such bond or contract.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That if any feme convert shall be a party executing such deed, and shall only be relinquishing her right of dower in such estate or interest, or when a husband and his wife shall have sealed and delivered a writing purporting to be a conveyance of any estate or interest, and such feme covert shall appear before any two justices of the peace of and State or Tereitory the United States, on of the District of Columbia, and, being by them examinad privily and apart from her husband and having the deed fully explained to her, shall acknowledge the same to be her act and deed, and shall declare that she had willingly signed, sealled, and delivered the same; and that she wished not to retract it; and such privy examination; acknowledgement, and declaration; shall be certificate by such justices under their hands and seals, by a certificate annexed to such writing, and to the following effect; that is to say;

——— county [for corporation, &c.] to wit:

We, A B and C D, justices of the peace in the county (or corporation, &c.) aforesaid, in the State (or Teraitory, &c.) of ——, do hereby certify that E F the wife of G H, party to a certain deed bearing date on the ——— day of——, and hereunto annexed, personally appeared before us in our county (or corporation, &c.) aforesaid, the said E F, being well known to us (or proved by the oaths of credible witnesses before us to be) the person who executed the said deed, and being by us examined, privily and apart from her husband, and having the deed aforesaid fully explained to her, she, the said E F, acknowledged the same to be her act and deeds declared that she had willingly signed, sealed, and delivered the same, and that she wished not to retract it. Given under our hands and seals this ——— day of———.

A. B. (SEAL)
C. D. (SEAL.)

And such certificate shall be offered for record to the clerk of the circuit court of the District of Columbia, in that county in which such deed ought to be recorded. It shall be the duty of such clerk to record the same accordingly; and when the privy examination, acknowledgment and declaration of a married woman shall have been so taken and certified, and delivered to the clerk to be recorded pursuant to the directions of this act, such deed shall be as effectual in law to pass her right, title and interest, as if she had been an unmarried woman: *Provided, however*, That no covenant or warranty contained in such deed hereafter executed shall in any manner operate upon any feme covert, or her heirs, further than to convey effectually from such feme covert and her heirs, her right of dower or other interest in real estate which she may have at the date of such deed.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That all deeds heretofore recorded within the District of Columbia, and in the county wherein any lands, tenements and hereditaments are situated, which are conveyed in or by said deeds, on an acknowledgment before two justices of the peace for said District, shall be good and effectual for the purposes therein mentioned, and valid as to all subsequent purchasers, and all creditors from the passage of this act, *Provided*, said deeds were made in good faith, and without an interest to commit a fraud upon creditors or bona fide subsequent purchasers.

[PUBLIC—No. 19.]

AN ACT for the benefit of the Levy Court of Calvert county, in the State of Maryland.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authoriezd and required to pay to any one duly authorized by the levy court of Calvert county, in the State of Maryland, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of three thousand dollars, in full satisfaction for the destruction of the court house of said county by the enemy during the late war with Great Britain, while the same was in the military occupancy of the United States, and in consequence thereof destroyed by fire.

APPROVED, April 20th, 1838.

[PUBLIC—No. 20.]

AN ACT making an appropriation for the removal of the great raft of Red River.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of seventy thousand dollars be appropriated, out

JAMES K. POLK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
RD. M. JOHNSON,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, April 20th, 1838.
M. VAN BUREN.

(RESOLUTION No. 2.—Public.)

A RESCLUTION to authorize the Secretary of War to purchase a site for a fort at or near the western boundary of Arkansas.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That out of the appropriation of fifty thousand dollars, made in the year eighteen hundred and thirty six, to remove the United States troops from Fort Gibson, the Secretary of War be authorized and directed to take a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars to purchase for the United States a site for a fort at or near the western boundary of Arkansas.

APPROVED, April 4th, 1838.

POETRY.

From the U. S. Magazine and Democratic Review.

SONNETS ON CHARACTER.

FRANKLIN.

Sound sense, invention, tact, uprightness, nerve,
(New England traits) in Franklin richly met.
Behold the printer's boy, by want beset,
Thrown friendless on the world—compelled to serve
In toilsome tasks; yet taking constant heed,
At labors intervals, his mind to store
With various knowledge! See him stand before
Kings, Senates, Councils! Hear him wisely plead
His country's cause! And look the lightning falls
Wonder of science, 'neath his iron wand,
With harmless fires! Again;—his country calls—
The time worn sage leads on her patriot band
Gives her, at home, abroad, his every breath
Beholds her free, and peaceful sinks in death!

LAFAYETTE.

Born, nurtured, wedded, within the pale
Of peers and princes; high in camp—at court,
He bears, in joyous youth, a wild report.
Swelling the murmurs of the western eagle,
Of a young people struggling to be free!
Straight quitting all, across the wave he flies
Aids, with his sword, wealth, blood the hand emprize,
And shares the glory of its victory,
Then comes for fifty years, a high romance
Of toils, reverse, sufferings, in the cause
Of man and justice, liberty and France,
Crowned, at the last; with hope and wild applause.
Champion of Freedom! Well thy race was run!
All time shall hail the, Europe's noblest son!

THE HOME OF THE DESOLATE.

BY C. W. EVEREST.

'How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery! Sore pierced by wintry winds,
How many sink into the sordid but
Of cheerless poverty.—*Thompson.*

It was night—the storm howled sadly by—and the mother sat in silence by the scanty fire, that warmed & faintly lighted the wretched, displayed cottage, once, in brighter days, her happy home. She had divided to her ragged and starving babes the little pittance of bread remaining to her, yet scarcely sufficient to satisfy the mad cravings of hunger! Little thought they, that they claimed their mother's all; yet freely was it given, with a silent tear *that it was all!* She hushed their cries soothed their corrows—covered them wit: her tattered mantle—bade them a sad good night'—and returned to her sorrowful vigil.

The night wore away—and still sat the mother over the fading fire she could not replenish, waiting the coming of him whose returning footsteps once caused a thrill of joy through her bosom, and was hailed with boisterous glee by his little ones. Once he promised at the altar to love and cherish her, and nobody, a while did he redeem the pledge. His cottage was the home of comfort, and his wife and infant divided his love. But ah! how charged! He had become a drunkard!—His buisness was neglected—his home deserted—and his late return was but the harbinger of woe. He came to curse the innocent partner of his misery as the author of his wretchedness, and his frightened children shrunk away from him, screaming as from a fiend. Where waits he now? The shadows of the night have long darkened the landscape. What delays his return? Alas! the boisterous shout which has nightly revel now echoes to his frantic shout. Surrounded by boon companions, he seeks to drown the memory of his sorrows in the bowl; while his wretched, scandid, starving wife still keeps her lonely watch by her cheerless hearth.

Stillness—solemn stillness, like the grave's reigns in that dreary habitation; and no sound is heard save when the fitful sighing of the wintry blast, or the low murmur of her dreaming infants, rouses the watcher from her trance. Then she raises her aching eyes to the dim clock, and with a glance to heaven turns to her lonely watch again. But now the tempest of her feelings has grown too fierce to be repressed—her bosom heaves with the wild emotions of her soul—and her thin hands seem endeavoring to force back the bursting torrent of her tears.

* * * The clock struck the hour of midnight—and he came as wont! With a fearful oath he cursed his wife's fond care; and drowned her's silent prayer, and the low wail of frightened babes went up to God as a [illegible]

* * * Would you know the conclusion of the story? Go ask the jail the alms-house, and they will tell you!—*S Littery Messenger.*

THE ROAD TO A WOMAN'S HEART.

As we approached the Inn at Amherst, the Clock maker grew uneasy. It's pretty well on to the evening, I guess, said, and Marm Pugwash is as onsartain in her temper as a morgan in April; it's all sunshine or all clouds with her tantrums, she'll stretch out her neck and hiss like a goose with a flock of goslins. I wonder what on airth Pugwash was a thinkin of when he signed articles of partnership with that are woman; she's not a bad looking piece of furniture neither, and it's a proper pity that a clever woman should carry sich a stiff upper lip—she reminds me of our old minister Hopewell's apple trees.

Our old minister had an orchard of most [illegible] good fruit, for he [illegible] [illegible] right to the trees. Well, there was one [illegible] trees hung over the wall, [illegible] never [illegible] bearers, the apples hung in bunches, for all the world like strings of onions, and the fruit was beautiful. Nobody touched the minister's apples and when other folks lost therein from the boys, his'n always hung there like bait to a hook, but there never was so much as a nibble at 'em. So I said to him one day, Minister, said I, how on airth do you manage to keep your fruit that's so exposed, when no one else can't do it no how. Why says he, they are dredful pretty fruit, ant they? I guess said I there ant the like on 'em in all Connecticut.—Well, says he, I'll tell you the secret, but you need'nt let on to no one about it. That are row next the fence, I grafted it myself, I took great pains to get the right kind, I sent clean up to Roxberry and away down to Squashneck creek. [I was afeard he was going to give day and date for every graft, being a terrible long winded man in his stories] so says I, I know that minister, but how do you preserve them? Why I was agoin to tell you, said he, when you stopped me. That are outword row I grafted myself with the choicest kind I could could find, and succeeded, they are beautiful; but so eternal sour, no human soul can eat them. Well, the boys think the old minister's graftin has all succeeded about as well as that row, and they search no farther. They snicker at my graftin, and I laugh in my sleeve, I guess, at their penetration.

Now, Marm Pugwash is like the Minister's apples, very temptin fruit to look at, but desperate sour. If Pugwash had a watary mouth when he married, I guess it's pretty puckery by this time. However, if she goes to act ugly, I'll give her a dose of "soft sawder," that will take the frown out of her frontispiece, and make her dial plate as smooth as a lick of copal varnish. It's a pity she's such a kickin' devil, too, she has good points—good eye—good foot—neat pastern—fine chest—a clean set of limbs, and carries a good ——. But here we are, now you'll see what 'soft sawder' will do.

When we entered the house, the traveller's room was all in darkness, and on opening the opposite door into the sitting room, we found the female part of the family extinguishing the fire for the night. Mrs. Pugwash had a broom in her hand, and was in the act [the last act of female housewifery] of sweeping the hearth. The strong flickering light of the fire, as it fell upon her tall, fine, figure, and beautiful face, revealed a creature worthy of the Clock maker's comments.

Good evening marm, said Mr. Slick, how do you do, and how's Mr. Pugwash? He, said she, why he's been abed this hour, you don't expect to disturb him this time of night I hope? Oh no said Mr. Slick, certainly not, and I am sorry to have disturbed you, but we got detained longer than we expected, I am sorry that ———. So am I, said she, but if Mr. Pugwash will keep an inn when he has no occasion to, his family can't exepct to rest.

Here the Clockmaker, seeing the storm gathering, stooped down suddenly, and staring intently, held out out his hand and exclaimed, well, if that aint a beautiful child—come here my little man, and shake hands along wiih me—well, I declare, if that are little feller aint the finest child I ever seed—what, not abed yet? Ah, you rogue, where did you get them are pretty rosy cheek; stole them from mamma, eh? Well, I wish my old mother could see that child, it is such a treat. In our country, said he, turning to me, the children are all as pale as chalk, or yeller as an orange. Lord, that are little feller would be a show in our country—come to me, my man. Here the 'soft sawder' began to operate. Mrs. Pugwash said in a milder tone than we had yet heard. "Go my dear to the gentleman—go dear." Mr. Slick kissed him, asked him if he would go to the States along with him, told him all the girls there would fall in love with him, for they didn't see such a beautiful face once in a month of Sundays. Black eyes—let me see—ah mamma's eyes too, and black hair also, as I am alive; why you are mamma's own boy, the very image of mamma.—Do be seated, gentlemen, said Mrs. Pugwash—Sally, make a fire in the next room. She ought to be proud of you, he continued. Well, if I live to return here, I must paint your face, and have it put on my clocks, and our folks will buy the clocks for the sake of the face. Did you ever see, said he, again addressing me, such a likeness between one human and another, as between this beautiful little boy and his mother. I am sure you have had no supper, said Mrs. Pugwash to me; you must be hungry and weary, too. I will get you a cup of tea. I am sorry to give you so much trouble, said I. Not the least trouble in the world, she replied, on the contrary a pleasure.

We were then shown into the next room, where the fire was now blazing up, but Mr. Slick protested he could not proceed without the little boy, and lingered behind me to ascertain his age, and concluded by asking the child if he had any aunts that looked like mamma.

As the door closed, Mr. Slick said, it's a pity she don't go well in gear. The difficulty with those critters is to get them to start, after that there is no trouble with them if you don't check 'em too short. If you do they'll stop again, run back and kick like mad, and then Old Nick himself wouldn't start 'em. Pugwash, I guess, don't understand the natur of the critter; she'll never go kind in harness for him. When I see a child, said the Clockmaker, I always feel safe with these women folk, for I have always found that the road to a woman's heart lies through her child.—SAM. SLICK.

FOUR LETTERS TO MR. BIDDLE.

From the Boston Courier, (*Whig.*)

To Nicholas Biddle, Esq. Philadelphia.

No. 4.

BOSTON, April 10, 1838.

Sir,—Of the many errors, which have prevailed from the day of the suspension of specie payments to this, none is more remarkable than one which has been industriously propogated, that, by the act of suspension, the banks were doing a favor to, by protecting, the community. Protecting the community from whom? Why, from themselves. Or, as you very adroitly word it, "the suspension is wholly conventional between the banks and the community, arising from their mutual conviction, that it is for their mutual benefit—the inquiry, whether the banks are ready to resume, and you are, upon certain conditions, ready to accommodate them. These conditions are, that they shall bid good bye to hard money, and take your paper exactly at the price you choose to affix to it. Taking silence for consent, you have proceeded upon this supposition, and appear unwilling to stop, until they shall speak to you their disapprobation, in a voice of thunder. In truth, your mistake springs from the fact, that you confound the people with the borrowers of the banks, and hence imagine, that because it is the interest of the latter to ask you not to resume, therefore the delay is agreeable to the people at large.

If the banks had thought proper to confine themselves within the line of the truth, in their justification, I should not have ventured to contend with them. If they had simply stated that, as things were in the month of May last, it were safer policy for them, and for their borrowers, not to force a settlement at that moment, their case would have stood upon its real ground. It would not have made a pretence at justifying what is beyond justification, their having suffered the gambling spirit of the borrowers to drive them so far. In this, you are most particularly responsible, for at a moment when the trouble from this "overstrained energy," as you call it, and extravagant gambling, as I think it, was beginning to be felt, you solemnly announced to the public that there was no overtrading—that you did not know what overtrading ment—that the trouble all came from the administration. The panic, which was then beginning, was thus, by the magic of your reputation as a financier, calmed for the moment—the speculators, even when oppressed almost beyond bearing, threw up their caps, and shouted it was no matter—and the banks were encouraged, by your example, to extend their discounts, at the very moment when they were by far too much extended for the public good already.

There is no justification, and can be none, for the condition in which you and the rest of the sound banks in the Union found yourselves, in May last You had received sufficient warning of the storm, in the excessively rapid contraction of your note circulation during the previous year, but you was bent upon ascribing this, not to the true cause, the expansion of the currency in other quarters, but to the course of the Government, in ordering the Specie Circular. Then came the call of the drowning at New York upon you to help them, and you could not resist its tone. Still, utterly blind to the true nature of the impending crisis you imagined it possible to save those who were past saving, and, in the effort, you became involved yourself. How different, under the same circumstances, was the course of the bank of England. That institution sacrificed some, whom it might have saved, because it would adhere to the strict rules of prudence. And however painful or cruel the process, to the community at large, it was the only mode of performing its duty. By failing in attention to it, where did you find yourself in May? Saddled with two millions of bonds, payable in a few months, in something more than your paper, with a debt to yourself, in New York, growing out of these advances, from which you could realize little beyond vexation, and a heavy debt to the Government to provide for, you had only $1,490,968 in your vaults in specie, with which to meet $10,039,954 of immediate obligations. Now, Mr. Biddle, I ask you, in your sober senses, and if you will not answer, I appeal to any sound thinker, to know whether, in a year of storm, this was a pilot's adequate preparation?

The great fault of all the sound banks, then, and it is a fault for which there is not much justification, was, that they did not stop discounting altogether at an early period of the pressure, and insist upon a payment of their balances from the weaker banks. Instead of doing this, they fell into the exactly opposite error. They met together, and agreed, by resolution, to discount five per cent more and ten per cent more of their capital, when they knew, at the same time, that the only way it could be done, was by relaxing the rule respecting the redemption of mutual balances.—This, of course, fanned the propensities of the weaker banks, at the cost of the stronger ones. I know very well what the pressure was from the debtors. I know what the difficulty was of resisting the imploring looks of the honest traitors, as well as the gambling speculators. But indulgence did no good. It put off only to make worse the evil day, and now here we are, in consequence of it, with a whole year of paralysis, and little prospect of better times for the future. And now we are to be told that all this was done to protect us. Yes, the Government and the banks unite to give us all the brandy we ask for, to drink, until we are raving mad, and then we tumble the whole into the ditch, where we stick fast, and they bid us be thankful to them that we are not drowned.

It is a remarkable fact, that in your letter, as well as in all other discussions of the subject that have come within my observation, the suspension of specie payments has been regarded solely in its bearings upon the present time. Such is the distress of the hour, that people seem to act as if there never had been one before, and never would be one again.—Yet this event borrows all its most threatening aspect from its probable influence upon futurity. In this country, where every thing is regulated by public opinion, I hold it of immense importance to the future stability of our pecuniary concerns, and through them, perhaps, of our free institutions themselves, that the people should form such an estimate of a suspension of specie payments, as should forever prevent the banks from indulging in any hope of declaring one, without forfeiting their character. Perhaps the most provoking part of your letter is the facility with which you slide over the matter as one of very little importance that you have the right of driving away the only perfectly sound currency, without giving adequate security for your substitute. Is it of little importance to overturn the relations of property, at intervals of but a few years duration? Is it of little importance, finally, to destroy, in the public mind, the sense of obligation, by continually blunting it, through the habit of seeing them but partially performed? And is it you, the man above all other men in this country, to whom we look for a different example, to smooth over, and tell us it is no great matter? Do you know what you do when you say so? That you encourage every rotten bank in the country, in its process of shuting its [illegible] rally around yourself [illegible] whether the people [illegible] to the banks [illegible] pave the way for a possible [illegible] some future moment, which may [illegible] banks and property, and Government, by one fell blow?

The conclusion, from all which I have endeavored to present, is then, to say the banks hero—resume—resume as soon as you can, if you have the least regard for your own safety and the peace of the community. Mind not the coaxing of Mr. Biddle—nor the threats of the Government. Mind not the sophistries of your debtors. You have a higher duty than to either. I mean, that of showing to the people, from whom you derive your authority that you can furnish the best and most convenient of currencies, paper ready convertible into coin—and thus you render futile the decision of the issue between hard money and paper, which some misjudging individuals are endeavoring to make up. Here lies your only safety. In doing right, the people are ready to sustain you, because they know that you can be of service to them—but if you will not do right, until you are forced, then will come the solemn question, whether it is ultimately for the public good to have you at all. You have, as yet, done nothing of your own free will and accord. Public sentiment has compelled you to take the necessary steps, to save your own credit from the contamination it has incurred by association with the greatest examples of profligacy, which the records of banking operations in this country have yet furnished. As one of the people who are friendly to you, I pray you, for your own sake, as well as for ours, to act hereafter with more boldness for the right.

My letters to you, Mr Biddle, have swelled in size and in number so far beyond my expectation, that, although I have by no means exhausted my views of the subject, yet, for fear of latiguing the patience of the editor and his readers, I propose to take my leave. I do so gladly, because this task has been by no means a pleasant one. The public will judge whether it has been efficiently performed or not. It will, at least, have an opportunity of reflecting upon something in the way of argument on the opposite side of the question to yours. Your influence is great throughout the commercial part of the land. It has reached to this place, in a manner too palpable to be mistaken,—for your committee no sooner appeared in Boston, than that which had been fixed upon, as the course of our banks, was changed to suit your views. That which many of us believe to be the only sound policy, was postponed to what we hold be an unsound, and probably ruinous one. You cannot wonder, then, that even personal feelings yield to the importance of the crisis; and those who never wished to join issue with you upon any question, should yet feel that the attempt ought at least, to be made upon this. It was not enough that you were wrong yourself, but you must try to make us keep you in countenance, and then, with our aid, browbeat the Legislature of New York into doing what you impel the banks in New York to ask them to do. If this is not an attempt to control the politics of the country, through its commercial metropolis, then is there no such thing as evidence. I think the people of our country will do well to resist such machinations in the outset. I think they ought to give you to understand that politics are not in your legitimate province—that if you choose to resign your office, and act as a citizen, no body will be better entitled to influence and consideration, but that while you hold it, the very worst Chief Magistrate, whom imagination could conceive them to be capable of electing, agreeably to our laws, would be a safer guide, in the government of the Nation, than you.

Very respectfully,

A CITIZEN.

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