EASTERN-SHORE WHIG AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS PERPETUAL VIGILANCE."

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POETRY.

From the Religious Souvenir, for 1839.

PAUL PREACHING AT ATHENS.

BY MISS A. C. LYNCH.

Greece! hear that joyful sound,
A stranger's voice upon thy sacred hill,
Whose tones shall bid the slumbering nations round,
Wave with convulsive thrill—
Athenians! gather there; he brings you words
Brighter than all your boasted lore affords.

He brings you vows of One
Above Olympian Jove. One in whose light
Your gods shall fade like stars before the sun.
On your bewilder'd night,
That *Unknown God* of whom ye darkly dream
In all his burning radiance shall beam.

Behold, he bids you rise
From your dark worship round that idol shrine:
He points to Him who rear'd your starry skies,
And bade your Phœbus shine.
Lift up your souls from where in dust ye bow,
The God of Gods commands your homage now

But, brighter tidings still!
He tells of one whose precious blood was spilt
In lavish streams upon Judea's hill,
A ransom for your guilt—
Who triumphed o'er the grave, and broke its chain;
Who conquer'd Death and Hell, and rose again

Sages of Greece! come near—
Spirits of daring thought and giant mould—
Ye questioners of Time and Nature, hear
Mysteries before untold!
Immortal life revealed! light for which ye
Have asked in vain your proud philosophy.

Searchers for some First Cause!
Midst doubt and darkness—lo! he points to One
Where all your vaunted reasons lost must pause,
And faint to think upon.
That was from everlasting, that shall be
To everlasting still, eternally.

Ye followers of him
Who deemed his soul a spark of Deity!
Your fancies fade—your master's dreams grow dim
To this reality.
Stoic! unbend that brow, drink in that sound!
Skeptic! dispel those doubts the truth is found.

Greece! though thy sculptured walls
Have with thy triumphs and glories rung,
And tho' thy temples and thy pillared halls,
Immortal poets sung—
No sounds like these have rent your startled air—They open realms of light and bid you enter there.

A Sight.—To see two lazy lofers lying upon a table in the sun, one playing the jewsharp, and the other scratching him.

A man that would run away without paying the printer, would kick his grand-mother into the fire.

SAM WELLERISMS.

"This is the day we celebrate," as the fat turkey said to the pig on the morning of christmas.

"That's an ungentlemanly insinuation," as the lady said to her lover ven he asked her how old she vos.

"Small favours are thankfully received as the elephant said to the little boys, ven they vos feeding him with chesnuts.

STANDING ON THE TOP OF SINAI.

I stand upon the very peak of Sinai, where Moses stood when he talked with the Almighty. Can it be, or is it a mere dream? Can this naked rock have been the witness of that great interview between man and his Maker? where amid thunder and lightning, and a fearful quaking of the mountain, the Almighty gave to his chosen people the precious tables of his law, those rules of infinite wisdom and goodness which to this day best teach man his duty towards his God, his neighbor and himself? The scenes of many of the incidents recorded in the Bible are extremely uncertain. Historians and geographers place the Garden of Eden, the paradise of our first parents, in different parts of Asia; and they do not agree upon the site of the lower Babel, the Mountain of Ararat, and many of the most interesting places in the Holy Land; but, of Sinai, there is no doubt. This is the holy mountain; and, among all the stupendous works of nature, not a place can be selected more fitted for the exhibition of Almighty power. I have stood upon the summit of the giant Ætna, and looked over the clouds floating beneath it, upon the bold scenery of Sicily, and the distant mountains of Calabria; upon the top of Vesuvius, and looked down upon the waves of lava, and the ruined and half recovered cities at its foot; but they are nothing compared with the terrific solitudes and bleak majesty of Sinai. An observing traveller has well called it "a perfect sea of desolation." Not a tree, or shrub, or blade of grass is to be seen upon the bare and rugged sides of innumerable mountains, heaving their naked summits to the skies, while the crumbling masses of granite all around, and the distant view of the Syrian desert, with its boundless waste of sands, form the wildest and most dreary, the most terrific and desolate picture that imagination can conceive. The level surface of the very top, or pinnacle, is about sixty feet square. At one end is a single rock about twenty feet high, on which, as said the monk, the spirit of God descended, while in the crevice beneath, his favored servant received the tables of the law. There, on the same spot where they were given, I opened the sacred book in which those laws were recorded, and read them with a deeper feeling of devotion, as if I were standing nearer and receiving them more directly from the deity himself.—Incidents of Travel.

ROB OF THE BOWL;
Or a Legend of St. Inegoes.

The subjoined chapter is from Mr. Kennedy's new novel of the above title.

CHAPTER 1.

No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,
But choked with sedges, works its weedy way;
Along thy glades a solitary guest,
The hollow-sounding bittern guards its nest;
Amidst thy desert walks the lapwing flies,
And tires their echoes with unvaried cries.
Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,
And the long grass o'ertops the mould'ring wall.

THE DESERTED VILLAGE.

It is now more than one hundred and forty-four years since the ancient capital of Maryland was shorn of its honors, by the removal of the public offices, and, along with them, the public functionaries, to Annapolis. The date of this removal, I think, is recorded as of the year of grace sixteen hundred and ninety-four. The port of St. Mary's, up to that epoch, from the first settlement of the province, comprehending rather more than three score years, had been the seat of the Lord Proprietary's government. This little city had grown up in hard-favoured times, which had their due effect in leaving upon it the visible tokens of a stunted vegetation: it waxed gnarled and crooked, as it perked itself upward through the thorny troubles of its existence, and might be likened to the black jack, which yet retains a foothold in this region,—a scrubby, tough and hardy mignon of the forest, whose elder day of crabbed luxuriance affords a sour comment upon the nature of its youth.

Geographers are aware that the city of St. Mary's stood on the left bank of the river which now bears the same name (though of old it was called St. George's,) and which flows into the Potomac at the southern extremity of the state of Maryland, on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay, at a short distance westward of Point Lookout; but the very spot where the old city stood is known only to a few,—for the traces of the early residence of the Proprietary government have nearly faded away from the knowledge of this generation.—An astute antiquarian eye, however, may define the site of the town by the few scattered bricks which the ploughshare has mingled with the ordinary tillage of the It may be determined, still more visibly, by the mouldering and shapeless ruin of the ancient State House, whose venerable remains,—I relate it with a blush—have been pillaged, to furnish building materials for an unsightly church, which now obtrusively presents its mottled, mortar-stained and shabby front to the view of the visiter, immediately beside the wreck of this early monument of the founders of Maryland. Over these ruins a storm-shaken and magnificent mulberry, aboriginal, and cotemporary with the settlement of the province, yet rears its shattered and topless trunk, and daily distils upon the sacred relics at its foot the dews of heaven,—an august and brave old mourner to the departed companions of its prime. There is yet another memorial in the family tomb of the Proprietary, whose long respected and holy repose, beneath the scant shade of the mulberry, has, within twenty years past, been desecrated by a worse than Vandal outrage, and whose lineaments may now with difficulty, be followed amidst the rubbish produced by this violation.

These faded memorials tell their story like honest chroniclers. And a brave story it is of hardy adventure, and manly love of freedom! The scattered bricks, all moulded in the mother-land, remind us of the launching of the barks, the struggle with the unfamiliar wave, the array of the wonder stricken savage, and the rude fellowship of the first meeting. They recall the hearths whose early fires gleamed upon the visage of the bold cavalier, while the deep, unconquerable faith of religion, and the impassioned instincts of the Anglo-Saxon devoted to liberty, were breathed by household groups, in customary household terms. They speak of sudden alarms, and quick arming for battle;—of stout resolve, and still stouter achievment. They tell of the victory won, and quiet gradually confirmed,—and the increasing rapture as, day by day, the settler's hopes were converted into realities, when he saw the wilderness put forth the blossoms of security and comfort.

The river penetrates from the Potomac some twelve miles inland, where it terminates in little forked bays which wash the base of the woody hills. St. George's Island stretches half across its mouth, forming a screen by which the course of the Potomac is partly concealed from view. From this island, looking northward, up St. Mary's river, the eye rests upon a glittering sheet of water about a league in breadth, bounded on either shore by low meadow-grounds and cultivated fields girt with borders of forest; whilst in the distance, some two leagues upward, interlocking promontories, with highlands in their rear, and cedar-crowned cliffs and abrupt acclivities which shut in the channel, give to the river the features of a lake. St. Inigoe's creek, flowing into the river upon the right hand, along the base of these cliffs, forms by its southern shore a flat, narrow and grass-clad point, upon which the ancient Jesuit House of the patron saint whose name distinguishes the creek throws up, in sharp relief, its chateau-like profile, together with its windmill, its old trees, barns and cottages,—the whole suggesting a resemblance to a strip of pasteboard scenery on a prolonged and slender base line of green.

When the voyager from the island has trimmed his sail and reached the promontories which formed his first perspective, the river, now reduced to a gunshot in width, again opens to his view a succession of little bays, intercepted by more frequent headlands and branching off into sinuous creeks that lose themselves in the hills. Here and there amongst these creeks, a slender beach of white sand separates from its parent flood a pool which reposes like a mirror in the deep forest; and all around high hills sweep down upon these placid lakes, and disclose half-embowered cottages whose hoary roofs and antique forms turn the musings of the spectator to the palmy days of the Lord Proprietary.

A more enchanting landscape than St. Mary's river,—a lovelier assemblage of grassy bank and hoary grove, upland slope, cliff, cot and strand, of tangled brake and narrow bay, broad seaward road-stead and air suspended cape, may not be found beneath the yearly travel of the sun!

The ancient city was situated nearly two miles beyond the confluence of St Inigoe's creek, upon a spacious level plain which maintained an elevation of some fifty feet above the river. The low-browed, double-roof and cumbrous habitations of the towns-people were scattered at random over this plain, forming snug and pleasant groups for a painter's eye, and deriving an air of competency and comfort from the gardens and bowers in which they were sheltered. The State House stood at the upper extremity of the town, upon cedar-clad head-land which, by an abrupt decent, terminated in a long, flat, sandy point, that reached almost half across the river. In regard to this building, tradition—which I find to be somewhat inclined to brag of its glory—affirms it to have been constructed in the shape of a cross, looking towards the river, with walls thick enough to resist cannon, and perilous steep roofs, from the top of the chief which shot up a spire, whereon was impaled a dolphin with a crooked, bifurcated tail A wooden quay and warehouse on the point showed this to be the seat of trade, and a crescent-shaped bay or indentation between this and a similar headland at the lower extremity of the town, constituted the anchorage or harbor for the scant shipping of the port.

The State House looked rearward over the town common—a large space of open ground, at the farther end of which, upon the border of a marshy inlet, covered with bulrushes and cat-tails, stood a squat, sturdy and tight little goal, supported,—to use the military phrase,—on one flank by a pillory and stocks, and on the other by an implement of government which has gone out of fashion in our day, but which found favour with our ancestors as an approved antidote to the prevalent distemper of an unnecessary or too clamorous loquacity in their dames—a ducking stool that hung suspended over a pool of sufficient depth for the most obstinate case that might occur.

Without wearying my reader with too much description, I shall content myself with referring to but two or three additional particulars as necessary to my future purpose: a Catholic chapel devoted to St. Ignatius, the patron of the province, in humble and unostentatious guise, occupied, with its appurtenances, a few acres in the centre of the plain, a short distance from that confine of the city which lay nearest to St. Inigoe's; and in the opposite quarter, not far from the State House, a building of much more pretention, though by no means so neat, had been erected for the service of the Church of England, then fast growing to the ascendant. On one of the streets leading to the beach was the market house surrounded by its ordinaries and ale-houses, and lastly, in the year 1681, to which this description refers, a little hostelry of famous report, known by the sign of the "The Crow and Archer," and kept by Master Garret Weasel, stood on the water's edge, at the foot of the bank below the State House, on a piece of level ground looking out upon the harbour, where the traveller may still find a luxuriate wilderness of pear trees, the scions of a notable ancestor which, tradition says, the aforesaid Garret planted with his own hand.

The country around St. Mary's bore, at the period I have designated, the same broad traces of settlement and cultivation which belongs to it at the present day. For many miles the scene was one of varied field and forest, studded over with dwellings and farm yards. The settlements had extended across the neck of land to the Chesapeake, and along both shores of St. Mary's river to the Potomac. This open country was diversified by woodland, and enlivened every where by the expanse of navigable water which reflected sun and sky, grove and field and lowly cottage in a thousand beautiful lights. Indeed, all the maritime border of the province, comprehending Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles, as well as the counties on the opposite shore of the Chesapeake, might be said, at this date, to be in a condition of secure and prosperous habitation. The great ocean forest had receded some hundred miles westward from St Mary's. The region of country comprising the present county of Anne Arundel, as well as Cecil and the Isle of Kent, was a frontier already settled with numerous tenants of the Lord Proprietary. All westward from this was the birthright of the stern Susquesahannock, the fierce Shenandoah, and their kindred men of the woods.

They are gone! Like shadows have these men of might sunk on the earth. They, their game, their wigwams, their monuments, their primeval forests,—yea, even their graves, have flitted away in this spectral flight. Saxon and Norman, bluff Britain and heavy Suabian inherit the land. And in its turn, well-a day! our pragmatical little city hath departed. Not all its infant glory, nor its manhood bustle, its walls, gardens and bowers,—its warm housekeeping, its gossipping burghers, its politics and its factions,—not even its prolific dames and gamesome urchins could keep it in the upper air until this our day. Alas, for the vaulting pride of the village, the vain glory of the city, and the metropolitan boast! St. Mary's hath sunk to the level of Tyre and Sidon, Balbec and Palmyra! She hath become trackless, tokenless.

I have wandered over the blank field where she sank down to rest. It was a book whose characters I could scarce decipher. I asked for relics of the departed. The winter evening tale told by father to son, and the written legend, more durable than monument of marble, have survived to answer my question, when brick and tile, hearth and tomb have all vanished from the traveller.

THE TRUE SOURCE OF WEALTH.

We were so forcibly struck on reading the subjoined article from the Maine Farmer, with the truth of the remark, made by way of caption, that "the wealth of a country depends upon its farmers and mechanics," that we cannot deny ourselves the gratification of quoting it entire. It is a subject of deep regret that so few of our newspapers ever even allude at all to these subjects—much less make them the leading features of their journals.— *Old Dominion.*

What is wealth? Those things which are convenient and necessary to use, and which administer to our wants and comforts. Money alone, cannot, therefore, be considered as wealth, because if the articles or things above-mentioned are not to be had, or are not in existence, a man would be poor indeed, though he was loaded with gold and silver. If he were hungry, and there was no bread to be bought, his gold would be of but little service.

It is true, mankind, by a common consent, have agreed that gold and silver should be the sign, or evidence of property; or, in other words the *measure* of property; and he who has a certain amount of it, has evidence of so much wealth. He can exchange it for the very things or articles which do in fact constitute wealth.

Thus, a man who has a hundred dollars in his pocket, has a *ticket*, as it were, to entitle him to *enter* into the possession of a hundred bushels of corn, or a hundred yards of cloth, or a hundred acres of wild land, or a yoke of oxen, or a horse and wagon, as the case may be. But if these things do not exist, and he needs them, his ticket is of no more use than if he had a ticket to go into a theatre, and it should have been burned down before he used it.

The elements, therefore, of wealth consist in natural productions brought together, changed and modified by the hand of man, of the farmer and mechanic. Commerce, though necessary and honourable, is nothing more than the *moving* or *changing* of these production from place to place.

It has always appeared singular to us, that merchants should consider themselves, as too many, far too many of them do, above the farmers and mechanics, merely on account of their profession, when they are, indeed, only the *teamsters* to the others. They are the agents to transport their productions hither and thither, as calls may exist for them.

But to return to the subject. If we are right in the position we have taken, that wealth consists in natural productions changed and wrought upon by the labour of man, it follows that the country which possesses the most of the elements or materials to work upon, such as good soil—abundance of water power—forests of timber—quarries of different kinds of stones, mines, and beds of different kinds of materials, &c. &c. must have the most natural wealth.

It then only requires the hand of industry and skill to put these materials into shape, and to put them together to form real substantial wealth. This is the duty of the farmer and the mechanic.

The more industrious and skilful this class is, the more wealth will be accumulated in the country. Do farmers and mechanics consider these things rightly? Are they not too apt to think themselves mere plodders and servants in the production and increase of wealth? And, indeed, is there not a false standard of respectability too much in use in society, and are not the productive classes apt to measure *idleness and a fine coat;* and, consequently, the more idle a man can be, and the finer the dress, the more of a gentleman. Not so. Respectability should consist in an improved mind, and skillful and industrious hands Moral qualifications being equal, he should have the most honour, who, by the combination of the efforts of his mind and physical powers, has contributed more largely to the increase of those things which constitute wealth.

Such a one has done more for the amelioration of society, than a thousand unproductive *dandies*, who loll in the shade and wash in cologne. And society should bestow upon such a corresponding meed of honour.

From the Richmond Inquirer.

INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS AT HARRISBURG.

The following letter, with which we have been favored by Mr. Buchanan, completely exhausts the merit of the controversy which agitates the Keystone State, and excites an interest in the whole community, that it is almost idle for us to add another word upon the subject.

TO THE EDITOR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1838.

My Dear Sir:—I have this moment received yours of yesterday and hasten to answer your inquiries respecting the 'Keystone State. I can readily conceive that her present condition must occasion anxiety and alarm in her sister states; and they must be all desirous to learn the true and exciting cause of the revolutionary movements at Harrisburg.

At the general election, on the second Tuesday of October last, two Democratic Senators, and eight democratic representatives, were elected over their whig competitors by a clear majority of the people of the county of Philadelphia. In all the 17 election districts into which that county is divided, C. Brown, the highest democratic candidate for the senate, received 10,036 votes, and W. Wagner, the highest whig candidate for the same office, received 9,490 votes, leaving an undisputed majority of 546 votes in favor of Mr. Brown — The majority of Mr. Stevenson, the other democratic candidate, over Mr. Wagner, was 520 votes. On the ticket for representatives, the lowest of the eight democratic candidates, received a majority of 385 votes over the highest whig candidates. And yet, strange as it may appear, all the tumult, and all the outrage at Harrisburg have arisen from the attempt of the two defeated whig candidates for the house, to seize and occupy the seats of those who have been elected by a majority of the people.

You will naturally ask how any difficulty could have arisen, in a case so plain? I shall proceed to tell you; but it will first be necessary to furnish you with a brief statement of the election laws of Pennsylvania, so far as they relate to the return of senators and representatives from the county of Philadelphia.

In this county, there are seventeen election districts, and, consequently, seventeen return judges, being one from each district. It is the duty of those judges to meet at the State house, in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Friday succeeding the general election, and to ascertain from the returns of all the districts, the persons elected senators and representatives. Having performed this duty, they are then bound to make duplicate general returns of the whole election; one of which is to be deposited in the prothonotary's office at Philadelphia, and the other, so far as it relates to the election of senators, having been first enclosed, sealed, and addressed to the senate, is then, under a second sealed cover, directed to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to be placed by the return judges, "in one of the nearest post offices." A similar course is to be pursued in regard to that portion of the general return which relates to the election of members of the House, except that it is to be directed to the House of Representatives. The return judges are, also, required to transmit to each of the persons elected senators or representatives, a certificate of his election. This is the sum and substance of the law.

In obedience to the law, all the seventeen return judges of the county of Philadelphia met at the State house on the first Friday after the general election, for the purpose of performing their duty. A question was raised before these assembled judges, whether the return in the Northern Liberties should be received. After investigating the alledged frauds and irregularities in this district, it was decided, by a majority of ten to seven, that this return should be rejected Whether this decision be right or wrong it cannot affect the election of the democratic senators and representatives to the State Legislature. In either alternative, they have been elected by a decided majority of the people. By rejecting the district of the Northern Liberties, their majority is increased from some five to fifteen hundred votes.

The return judges having ascertained that the two democratic senators, and the eight democratic members of the house, had been duly elected, then prepared duplicate returns of the election, according to the act of assembly, which were signed by ten of their number. One of these returns was deposited in the prothonotary's office, at Philadelphia, and the other was transmitted to, and received by, the Secretary of the Commonwealth. A regular notice was sent to each of the successful candidates for the senate and the house, of his election; and here their duty ended. It will thus be perceived that the democratic senators and representatives elect, were regularly returned as elected, by a majority of the return judges, according to the requisitions of the law.

After the return judges had completed their business and adjourned, six of the whole number of seventeen retired to another room in the State house, and then and there prepared and signed, in conjunction with the return judge from the city of Philadelphia, a return of the votes polled in seven only of the seventeen election districts of the county of Philadelphia — No objection whatever had been made, certainly no testimony had been offered to impair the validity of the election in any one of the other distranchised districts, but it was necessary to exclude the votes in these ten districts, in order to furnish a pretext for the minority to usurp the rights of the majority. The only reason which I have ever heard assigned for this attempted violation of the rights of the people, was, that as a majority of the return judges had excluded the votes of the district of the Northern Liberties, and thereby had returned Mr. Ingersoll as duly elected to Congress, therefore, the minority of the judges were justified in excluding the votes of these districts, and thus returning the defeated whig candidates elected to the senate and house of representatives.

It is scarcely necessary to state that, in point of law, this minority return, signed by six judges, when it is a notorious fact that there were, and from the acts of assembly that there must be, seventeen judges in the county of Philadelphia, was a perfect nullity, and must ever continue such until it can be established that the minority shall rule the majority.

This minority return was delivered to the sheriff, and by him sent by express on a steam engine to the secretary of the commonwealth, and was received at his office before the official majority return had arrived. Thus stands the facts.

Shortly after the election, a rumor extensively prevailed that the whigs intended, if possible, to force into the Legislature, as sitting members, their ten rejected candidates from the county of Philadelphia; and, by their votes, before they could be removed by contesting their elections, to pass laws, to elect the canal commissioners, the United States Senator, and other officers, and to govern the state in direct violation of the legally declared will of a majority of the people. I did not believe the rumor, and thought that the minority return had proceeded from the excitement and exasperation which defeat often produces after a hotly contested election, and that we should hear no more of it. Besides, I could not then imagine that such a palpable and daring usurpation of the most sacred rights, not only of the electors of the county of Philadelphia, but of the Commonwealth at large, would be attempted. In this, it appears, I have been mistaken.

Before and at the time of the meeting of the Legislature, there were, in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the minority returns from the county of Philadelphia; and duplicates of the majority returns, one transmitted through the sheriff as the minority report had been, and the other through the post office, which is the only legal channel. Now, sir, in answer to your question, I can inform you that the sole cause of all the disturbances at Harrisburg is, that this officer took upon himself the fearful responsibility of withholding from the Senate and the House of Representatives the returns of the majority of the judges of the county of Philadelphia, which had been directed to these bodies respectively, and delivered to them the minority returns only. Had he delivered all these returns, as was clearly his duty, the Legislature would have organized in peace. The Whig members could not have contended, as they have done, that the minority returns, delivered by the Secretary of the Senate and the House, were the only legal evidence of election which could be received by them, in the first instance, and were conclusive of the right of the defeated whig candidates to become the sitting members. It is upon this principle, and this alone, that they have proceeded to form a revolutionary House of Representatives, consisting of fourty-four regularly elected Whig members, and the eight rejected Whig candidates of the county of Philadelphia.

In defence of the Secretary, it has been said, that as he first received the minority return, it was his duty to consider it the only legal return, and to withhold all those which came after. This would make the political rights of the people of Pennsylvania to depend upon the event of a race. If this were the law, defeated candidates might always seize the seats of the Senators and Representatives elected by the people, provided they could obtain a false return from the minority of the return judges, and command the fleetest courser or the swiftest locomotive. Indeed, in every instance, they could deliver their returns first, by express, to the Secretary of the Commonwealth; because the law requires the regular return to be transmitted through the post office, by due course of mail.

But there is no pretext in the law for this defence of the conduct of the Secretary. In regard to these election returns, he is a mere depository; and his whole duty is performed by delivering, at the appropriate time, all such as he may have received, to the proper officer of the Senate and the House respectively. If the law had assigned him any other part than that of a mere ministerial agent, it would have been an outrage on popular Government. To confer upon the chief executive officer of the Governor, dependent upon his will, any power whatever to decide, either first or last, on the validity of the election returns of members of the Legislature, would be to place the legislative branch of the Government under the control of the executive. This would violate one of the essential and fundamental principles of Republican liberty.

The secretary, so far from possessing any power to withhold a sealed return, directed to the senate of the house, has no right even to know its contents, because the law requires that it shall be first sealed up and addressed to the senate or the house and afterwards be placed under a second sealed cover and directed to him. In delivering such papers according to their direction he is but a ministerial, not a judicial officer. But even if he were constituted a judge, what law has established it as the rule of his decision, that he shall declare the first paper in the form of a return which he may have received, whether through the legal channel or not, to be adsolute verity; and any return which may arrive afterwards, to be so perfect a nullity as to justify him in withholding it from the clerk of the senate or of the house. If he were a judge in this question it would be the duty to exercise judicial discretion, and then he would be bound to declare that a return made by six out of seventeen judges was a mere nullity, because it was signed by a minority of the whole number. But the law confers upon him no such authority; it imposes no such responsibility. The line of his duty was clearly marked. He ought to have delivered to the clerks of the respective houses all the returns which were directed to these bodies, and he would then have performed his office. As it is, his conduct in delivering the minority return to the clerks and withholding that of the majority, is a revolutionary and direct invasion of the dearest rights of the people by the executive branch of the government. What is the known and acknowledged remedy for such a daring usurpation of popular rights by executive power? Let the history of all free governments, let the most approved authors on the subject of civil liberty, answer the question.

But fortunately, no occasion exists for resorting to extreme measures; and I should be the last man in the country who would advocate them, unless in a case of absolute and uncontrolable necessity. The law has made ample provision to remedy any defect of evidence arising from the withholding of the official return by the secretary. If any such neglect has occurred, by sending through the post office he sent occasion, be suppressed and withheld, there is another original in existence, in the prothonotary's office, of the proper county. A certified copy of this original from the office in Philadelphia, was presented to the clerk of the house of representatives, at the time of its organization, by one of the members elect, and under it, the eight members duly elected and returned, were qualified and took their seats. The number of representatives, under the constitution of Pennsylvania, is one hundred.—The members which have already qualified and taken their seats in the regular house, is 56; and the whig minority exclusive of the defeated whig candidates, is 44; so that the democratic majority will be 12.

The attempt to govern Pennsylvania by a minority of the people, must and will speedily and peacefully terminate. It will end as every assault on the liberty of the people has heretofore done, in this free and glorious republic, by overwhelming every agent who has been employed in it with popular indignation, now and hereafter.

Yours, very respectfully,
JAMES BUCHANAN.

FEDERAL DESPERATION.

Thaddeus Stevens, through his weak instrument, Joseph Ritner, has called a thousand armed men here to quell a rebellion. When these men arrived they found peace and good order prevailing, and saw no rebels and no disorder. But the troops are here at a heavy expense to the state, and the federal party are responsible for the outrage. They are, therefore, earnestly employed in all quarters, in endeavoring to create a belief that a rebellion had broken out here, and that there was a necessity for invoking a military force upon us to quell it. To this end, all their papers teem with falsehoods and misrepresentations, and the truth is carefully withheld from their readers. Low depraved wretches, like the perjured miscreants used in the late gubernatorial campaign, are employed by them to swear to charges made against numerous citizens who were here on the fourth inst, and numerous arrests are in progress. Accounts of these with the suborned informations, are also published to show that a rebellion existed.

The story that a Col. Ege was mistaken for Mr. Penrose and shot at in the streets of Harrisburg, was coined for the same vile purpose —there is not a shadow of truth in it.

Equally false is the statements that Commodore Elliot, went to Gov. Ritner and tendered his services to quell the rebellion. It is true Commodore Elliot was here during the first week of the session, but it called upon, he will state that he saw nothing like rebellion and no appearance of an armed mob being in this place.

There is one fact which completely gives the lie to all the federal statements about a rebellion existing here, or their being an armed mob in this place, or any individual at the seat of government being in personal danger. The fact is that the Senate met on Saturday, the day before the troops came, every member being present, Mr. Penrose and all, as the journal will show.

In short all the allegations sent forth about mobs, riots, violence and rebellion, are absolutely and unqualifiedly false in every particular. They are mere pretences to countenance the bringing of troops here to protect the conspirators engaged in the plan of perpetuating a minority reign. History records of all