...—They asked the stockholders to take the charter—they received the stockholders' money and gave the charter. Now, if this is not a bargain—a contract—what is? What difference is there between this and the other engagements of the state? It takes my money and gives a paper declaring that I own certain land. It takes your money and gives you a certificate of debt—to another it says, build a bridge, or a canal, or a rail road, and you shall have a paper declaring that you may take toll. They all stand on the same footing. The Constitution of Pennsylvania forbids the Legislature from violating any one of such engagements. It contains what it calls "a declaration of rights," as follows:

That the general, great and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare.

That no expost facto law, *nor any law impairing contracts, shall be made,*"

How, then, can the Legislature make a law violating its own contracts? Even were it disposed to do so, it is forbidden by a power still higher than the Legislature, or even the Constitution, of Pennsylvania.

The Constitution of the United States is a guarantee by all the States against any wrong done by any one State. That instrument declares that "this Constitution *shall be the supreme law of the land*, and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby—anything in the *Constitution or laws of any State* to the contrary notwithstanding;—and that Constitution declares that "*no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts.*" So obvious is this, that even Mr. George M. Dallas, saw it. The charter, he says, "*is essentially a contract* made by at least our nominal representatives with numerous persons, *nine tenths of whom are strangers to our soil*, and each of whom contributed, in the payment of the bonus, some portion of his private property in execution of his share of its stipulations."—"The rights which it imparted are now absolutely vested, and the Constitution of the United States prohibits any State from passing any law impairing the obligation of contracts." "I am aware," he adds, "of the natural and prevailing impression that the next General Assembly might be called upon to pronounce the Incorporating Act null and void, on the ground of its having been fraudulently, surreptitiously and corruptly obtained." "But such a movement *violates fixed maxims—making declamation equivalent to proof, forfeiting private property, and passing sentence of infamy without judicial trial. We must not debase our pursuit* by any such hypocritical pageantry and summary injustice." And accordingly he recommends as the only remedy, the Convention. But, if the Legislature cannot do it, how can the Convention do it?

The Convention is a body created under a law of the State, entitled "An Act to provide for calling a Convention with *limited powers.*"

The act declares that the Convention shall have power to propose amendments of the Constitution, to the people, for their ratification or rejection, and "no other or greater *powers what-soever.*" "To propose amendments to the Constitution." Well—what is there in the Constitution about the Bank? How can its repeal be put into the Constitution? and if it were in the Constitution, what force would it have against the paramount power of the Constitution of the United States, which declares that no State shall impair the obligation of a contract, either *by its laws or its Constitution.*

If then the Legisleture or the Convention were to attempt such a breach of faith, not merely the people of Pennsylvania, but the people of the other States, whose citizens will be thus defrauded by Pennsylvania, would unite in putting down this usurpation.

But there is not the slightest danger that either the Legislature or the Convention will make this abortive attempt. There are not twenty men in Pennsylvania who would not scorn thus to degrade this ancient and honorable Commonwealth. Nevertheless, that question shall be tried before the Convention. It involves interests far deeper than the temporary existence of the Bank—it concerns the whole character of our free institutions. If a Convention in Pennsylvania can dissolve the obligations contracted by the Legislature, so can a Convention in New York and Virginia. If, when a *Legislature* has pledged the faith of the State, its members may disperse, and, reappearing in a few months as delegates to a *Convention*, annul all the acts of that *Legislature*,—there can be no safety in dealing with the States. The hundred millions of money lent by Europeans on the pledge of the faith of the States—the thousand millions invested on the security of the engagements of the States, the titles to lands, and to all other property, bridges, turnpikes, canals, rail-roads, banks, every private right, every corporate power, are wholly at the mercy of the State authorities, call them as you please, Legislatures or Conventions. The whole institution of the country would become frauds. This must not be It must be decided whether this Pennsylvania of ours is a virtuous community or a mere society of plunderers—nor will the honor of the State be relieved, either at home or abroad, from the stain which a few small politicians wish to fix upon her, until the Convention adopts some solemn declaration that there is no power in this nation capable of violating the sacred engagements of the State authorities. That should be done, and, if any efforts of mine may avail that, shall be done for the honor of this State, for the character of her sister States, and for the stability of all popular institutions. In the mean time there is not the least reason for anxiety about it. The question was agitated merely for the election and expired with it, and there is no party in the State at all desirous of resuming a controversy, which can only distract and injure the Commonwealth.

With great respect and regard, yours,

N. BIDDLE.

Hon. J. Q. Adams, Washington, D. C.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Chronicle.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7th, 1836.

There has been very little done either in the Senate or House to-day. One other Senator, Mr. Brown, of North Carolina, appeared and resumed his seat. The appearance of one Senator brought to my mind the inexcusable absence of the other.—What can be said of a man who, as long as his course is bright and no threatened disappointment is pending, remains firm and fixed; but as soon as danger appears, even in the distance, regardless of his duty, deserts his post! Judge Mangum's resignation is unaccountable, except we attribute it to a versatility, which seems to be innate with him. The Vice President laid upon the table a variety of documents from the Public Departments. At half past twelve, a message was received from the President of the United States, communicating copies of a correspondence with Mrs. Madison, on the death of her husband. Mr. Benton gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce several bills, among which were the following.

In regard to the establishment of a Western Armory; a bill to relieve the heirs of Major Eaton; and a bill to make a grant of Lands to Arkansas University. He also, gave notice, that as soon as the Senate was full, he intended to introduce the *same* preamble and resolutions which he did last session, in regard to *expunging* a certain resolution of censure. He said, he gave notice thus early, because he wished to get through with it before the regular business of the session commenced; and added, that he trusted they would not share the same fate as last sesion. Mr. Benton seems determined to tire the patience of the members of every Congress, until he forces from them a reluctant assent to expunge from the Journals a censure which they believe to be just. When shall our Legislative Halls be free from those who contend, *not* for principles, but men; who labor *not* for the weal of our common country, but for the gratification of their own private feelings and the interest of their political friends! It is probable these resolutions will pass.

Mr. King, of Alabama, gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, ask leave to introduce a bill for the better organization of the District Courts of Alabama.

Mr. Walker, of Mississippi, gave notice that he would on to-morrow, ask leave to introduce a bill, in regard to a grant for the construction of a Rail Road in Mississippi and Alabama.

Notice was given that several other private bills would be introduced on to-morrow. And, on motion of Mr. Linn, the Senate adjourned,

In the House, still less was done. A message was received from the President communicating copies of a correspondence with Mrs. Madison, on the death of her husband.

Mr. Claiborne of Mississippi, in a beautiful and pathetic manner, announced the death of his colleague, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Haynes of Georgia, also announced the death of his colleague, General Coffee. The House then adjourned.

There seems to be a determination on the part of the opposition, to bring "the party" to the mark. I heard it intimated, that Resolutions were to be introduced, to cancel the obligation of the States to refund the money awarded to them by the Distribution Bill. It is doubtful how many of the servants of the *dear* people, would dare to oppose this measure.

G———.

N. B. It was suggested in the House to-day, that a motion should be made, that the President's message, when printed, should be handed to the members, "*without the Prospectus of the Extra Globe folded therein,*" as it was last session. I believe eventually, the motion was not made.

From the Annapolis Republican.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The House of Delegates to be composed of two Delegates from each county, and an additional Delegate for every fifteen thousand inhabitants. One of the delegates to which Frederick and Anne Arundel are respectively entitled shall be an inhabitant of the cities of Frederick and Annapolis.—Baltimore city to have a delegation equal to the most populous county, the voters of all cities to be registered so as to exclude non residents and foreigners not naturalized.

The Senate to be composed of one Senator from each county, and one from the City of Baltimore, elected immediately by the people every five years. The Senate to be classed, and one fifth to go out annually, but to be re eligible. If a Senator dies, resigns removes or becomes disqualified, the Senate to fill the vacancy for the residue of the unexpired term.

The governor to be elected immediately by the people every five years, and in case of his death, resignation removal or disqualification the House of Delegates at their first session thereafter, to elect his successor for the residue of the unexpired term. The President of the Senate to fill the station in the interim and in case of his death, &c the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Governor by the advice and consent of the Senate to make all civil and military appointments and to appoint in the recess o the Senate subject to their confirmation or rejection at th ir next meeting.

The Elections to be held on the 4th Wednesday of September, for all State and County Offices, and Representatives to Congress

A DELEGATE.

THE ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT.

Of this document, transmitted to both Houses of Congress on the first day of the session, as we shall not be able to publish it for a day or two, we have thought our readers would not be dissatisfied, for the present, with an abridged account, which we have arranged under its several natural divisions, as follows;—Nat. Int.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1836.

The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January last was $26,749,803. The *receipts* for 1836 are estimated at $47,691,898 of which the receipts from Customs for the three first quarters have been $17,523,151, and the receipts from Lands $20,048,029. The *expenditures* for 1836 are ascertained and estimated at $31,435,032, of which the payments for the military service, (including fortifications,) during the three first quarters, have amounted to $13,010,061.

Deducting the expenditures of the year, ascertained and probable, from the receipts, the balance which will be in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1837, is estimated at $43,005,669, and, deducting the 'unavailable funds' of $1,080,000, leaving 'the available balance' $41,925,659. [This does not include the balance to the credit of the Post Office Department at the end of the year, estimated at $513,920.]

Revenue and Expenditures for 1837.

The *receipts* are estimated as follows:—Customs, $16 500 000; Lands, $5,000,000; Bank Stock and Miscellaneous, $2,500,000. The expenditures (including $1,000,000 for usual excess of appropriations beyond estimates) are estimated at $26 755 831.

Imports and Exports.

The *Imports* during the year ending 30th September, 1836, are ascertained and estimated at $173,540,000, shewing an increase compared with the preceding year of $23,644,258. The Exports during the same period are ascertained and estimated at $121,789,000, of which $101,405,000 were domestic products, and the residue foreign, exhibiting an aggregate increase, compared with the preceding year, of $35,423, and an amount exceeding the average of the last three years by $5,829,150.

The Surplus Revenue.

The recommendations of the last Annual Report are renewed, and reductions suggested of duties on raw materials of foreign origin used in some of our important manufactures, and next on articles of comfort and necessity for the people generally. A prohibition of the sale of the public domain to any but actual settlers is also mentioned as another mode of curtailing the revenue.

The Public Money.

An account is given of the measures adopted in pursuance of the act of June 23d, 1836 to regulate the deposites of the public money and some recommendations are made of prospective provisions on the subject, such as authority to discontinue as deposite banks, when no longer necessary, those selected under the late act, &c.

The Mint and the Currency.

The coinage of the Mint, from the 1st of January to the 1st of November, 1836, has been of gold, $3,619,440, and of silver, $2,877,000. The establishment of a gold coin of one dollar is again urged upon Congress. The quantity of gold now in the country is estimated at $15,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury calculates the whole specie in the country in October, 1833, at thirty millions of dollars, and the whole specie now in the country at seventy-three millions. Various speculations on the subject occupy a number of pages in this part of the report.

Miscellaneous.

The report concludes with several suggestions of a miscellaneous character, among which the renewed recommendation of the adoption of measures for regulating steamboat navigation must meet with very general approbation from all those who have as much horror as we have of those appalling catastrophes which class themselves under the head of 'Steamboat disasters!'

Speculations in reference to the cabinet of Mr. Van Buren are already beginning to be made. A Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce says:

The most correct, probable, and authentic cast of the next cabinet that I have seen, is as follows:—

William C. Rives, of Virginia, Secretary of State.

Silas Wright, of New York, Secretary of Treasury

Dr. Linn, (now Senator) of Missouri, Secretary of War.

William Wilkins, of Pennsylvania, Secretary of Navy.

William Gaston, of North Carolina, Attorney General.

Amos Kendall, of Kentucky, Post Master General.

The writer of this happened to be present in the Senate of the United States, when the incident in relation to Mr. Calhoun and Isaac Hill, referred to in the annexed article, took place. The remark that the scene will never be forgotten by any of the spectators, is perfectly just. Isaac Hill had, for two days, been indulging his natural love of abuse, by venting his spleen upon Mr. Clayton. The latter had retorted, with dreadful, scorching, overwhelming severity. In the course of his remarks he commenced a sentence with the words "There are some creatures so despicable." Livid with rage and smarting under the lash, Hill started from his chair and called the Senator from Delaware to order. Mr. Calhoun, the Vice President, immediately arrested the debate and desired the complaining Senator to reduce the offensive words to writing. Mr. Hill sent to the chair the words, "*There are some creatures so despicable.*" Mr. Calhoun.—"The Senator from New Hampshire calls the Senator from Delaware to order for using these words, 'There are some creatures so despicable.'" There was a dead pause. The Senators gazed upon each other, and the Vice President leaned back in his chair. At length Mr. Foot, of Connecticut, broke the silence. He was amazed at the captiousness of the Senator from New Hampshire. For his part, he did not see how freedom of discussion could be enjoyed, if Senators were not allowed to express their sentiments. "Surely, Mr. President," said he, "the Senator from New Hampshire will not deny that there are some creatures so despicable. Nothing can be more purely abstract than this declaration." Hill could not reply. No Senator seemed to compassionate his situation—and the Vice President, after waiting for a few moments, desired Mr. Clayton to proceed. And he did proceed—and never was any poor wretch exposed to such a torrent of irony, ridicule and sarcasm Isaac Hill will never forget that day.—*Balt. Chron.*

From the Albany Daily Advertiser.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

Several of the public journals appear to rely with confidence upon the self-respect of the United States Senate, and thence to draw the inference, that that exalted body will never so far stain its own reputation, as to elevate R. M. Johnson to the position for which he has been nominated. We fear that this is a delusive hope; party spirit has so far trampled down the reputation, the dignity, and the honorable pride of the Senate, as to force the nomination of Johnson, and we apprehend that it will prove sufficiently potent, to consummate what it has so shamelessly begun. Then, alas! how great will be the change. Richard M Johnson, weak, shuffling, ignorant of his duties, will present a humiliating contrast in comparison with Clinton, Burr, Tompkins, Calhoun, Hugh L. White, and latterly Van Buren. The present Vice President, though often slovenly in discharging the duties of the chair, can do well if he pleases. But it is not within the ability of Richard M. Johnson to understand the proper exercise of his fonctions, or to impart the promptness, the impartiality, and the dignity, which should characterize the official conduct of the President of the Senate.

Some recently published reminiscences of Aaron Burr, illustrate the high appreciation which he entertained of the dignity of the Senate, and the responsibilities belonging to the individual presiding over that body.—Col. Burr was Vice President when Judge Chase was impeached by the House of Representatives and tried before the Senate. This was the first trial of the kind in the United States, and upon Col. Burr devolved the duty of establishing the precedent which was to be a guide for the conduct of such trials thereafter.

We learn from the accounts given in the journals of that day, that the Vice President discharged his share of the duty in a manner worthy of unqualified commendation. The most severe rules were laid down and strictly adhered to; every man had his place and was to keep in it. The Senate chamber was fitted up with great taste as a court room;—the Senators were arranged on each side of the Vice President, and their desks covered and hung round with crimson.

Nor did Colonel Burr alone confine himself to the externals of dignity. He prepared his own mind, by diligent study, and extended investigation, before the trial came on. He labored with all the zeal and industry of a counsel in the cause, and when he took his seat on the tribunal, manifested a thorough familiarity with every point and question that was presented. This was signally illustrated by the course taken by John Randolph, whom Burr detected and exposed in a trick, not at all in place, before a high Court of Impeachment.

Mr. Randolph was manager in the conduct of the trial on the part of the House, and, in his argument, he cited a particular work as an authority in his favor, from which he read a paragraph or two. After he had finished reading, the Vice President asked for the book, which was not immediately given to him; on getting it, however, he directed the clerk to read the next passage following that which the gentleman from Virginia had just quoted. It commenced in these unfortunate words, thus succinctly, to show into what an egregious error our ancestors fell." It is a very natural inference, that the descendant of Pocahontas never forgave Col. Burr for this merciless exposure.

Mr Calhoun was capable of such an act as this, as Isaac Hill doubtless realized, in that memorable debate when Mr. Clayton of Delaware, was called to order for saying "*There are some creatures so despicable,*" et cetera. The scene that morning in the Senate, will never be forgotten by any of the spectators. Mr. Calhoun's manner as Vice President was admirable in every particular. He it was, who introduced the custom, when putting the question, of addressing the members as "*Senators,*" instead of "gentlemen," as had been, until then, the usage. The substitution was startling to the ear, and its propriety immediately acquiesced in.

Judge White made a good President of the Senate, albeit somewhat despotic over the galleries. He was well acquainted with the rules, uniformly courteous, and never manifested weariness, which is Mr. Van Buren's besetting sin in the chair. But if Col Johnson is elected Vice President, the Senate must bid adieu to the dignity and propriety of its chair. The gallant Colonel has no more pretensions to a high ministerial bearing, or personal *empressement*, than Mr. Rice's popular personification of '*Jim Crow.*'

It is not for us to meddle with the majesty of the new and excellent State of Arkansas, which has come into the Union as fully primed and loaded with wisdom as Minerva herself, and which has undoubtedly manifested it by voting for Mr. Martin Van Buren and Colonel Johnson; but it is fair we suppose to chronicle her glories as fast as they come to light. With this view, we copy the opinion entertained of her Legislature by the Editor of the Little Rock Gazette. If his State pride leads him into too much partiality, we have only to say that all proper allowances must be made. The following comprises a part of the flattery of that paper.—*N. Y. Express.*

THINGS THAT WE HAVE SEEN.

We have seen in the first Legislature of the State of Arkansas, a member made drunk by other members and locked up in a room, to keep him from voting in an election—and the Honorable member who led him to his room, returning and voting with the key in his pocket.

We have seen men vote for a certain person for State Treasurer, because he promised if elected to redeem their scrip at par—and we have known them to complain after the election that he refused to fulfil that engagement.

We have seen a member pledge himself to a gentleman that he would support him for the office of Judge—which he did not do, because he was promised the Presidency of a Branch Bank, if he would forfeat his word.

We have seen the *previous question* moved while a political opponent of the Speaker had the floor and was speaking—and the Speaker sustained the motion.

We have seen Judges of the Circuit Court holding their seats as members of the house after their commissions were made out.

We have seen motions to adjourn made while members were speaking, and the question of adjournment put by the Chair.

We have seen a member give a speech to the Clerk, to be read at the table.

We have seen men electioneering for Judges and a President of a state bank—and elect a Captain of the U. S. Army to the latter office—after which we expected to see a party of soldiers brought down from Fort Gibson to be run in as *Directors.*

We have known a member of a Committee of Conference *purloin* and *secrete* a bill, to keep it from returning to the House.

We have seen a State receive a Flag as a present from a mercantile firm.

We have seen members driven like sheep to vote against their wishes and their consciences—to violate their most sacred pledges—and to vote contrary to their open declarations in the street and elsewhere.

We have not seen, but known, a candidate for Bank Director obtain leave of the land lord at a tavern to search 'suspected places' for a Representative who had bolted—which suspected places were duly examined by said candidate—the beds, closets, and other hiding places thoroughly explored, the recreant found, and made to vote contrary to his express pledges.

The present condition of the British Provinces in North America is extremely unsettled, and gives great reason to apprehend an interruption of existing relations between them and the mother country. Of the value of those possessions to the British crown, whether they be regarded in a commercial point of view, or as a receptacle for the surplus population of Great Britain, there can be but one opinion. Mismanagement on the part of Government is said to be the cause of the existing state of things, which has already deprived a large portion of the population of the advantages of civil institutions, and may, in the end, cause a separation from the parent country. Without pretending to venture an opinion on the grounds of complaint, we will only remark, that in the event of a change, the inhabitants will in a state of independence find matters more costly than their present condition, relieved as they are from the charges of government,

the following items:

It is not expected that Senator Clayton will take his seat again. Judge Porter will retain his seat in the Senate during the present session. Strong efforts are making by Mr. Clay's friends to induce him to consent to a re-election. Senator Southard in high spirits. Hopes are entertained by Dr. Naudain's friends that he may be elected Secretary of the Senate—if *party* is arrayed against him he stands no chance.

The President's health continues feeble. Andrew Jaeckson Jr. is now his private secretary.

No fears are now entertained of a difficulty with Mexico—as it is thought the President's message will be satisfactory. The President's recommendations with regard to the repeal of the duty on Salt, Coal, Wheat, &c. &c., is popular and will probably be adopted. The suggestion with regard to the reducing the postage on letters also gives great satisfaction.

The Members of Congress have assembled this winter apparently under feelings of kindness and cordiality. The Van Buren men are not over elated nor are the Whigs cast down.

Much interest begins to be excited already as to the formation of the next Cabinet.—The President elect is all smiles, and seems in the beginning to be anxious to have the good opinion of both parties. Mr. Rives, is to be 'a lion.' Many are anxious, at once, to announce him as a candidate to succeed Mr. V. B. Some think he will be offered a seat in the Cabinet by the latter gentleman.

Who is to be the Vice President? Will Mr. Rives and the other Virginia Senator, whoever he may be, vote for Col. Johnson? Many think so—and that thereupon Mr. Rives is to be placed in the line of succession. We shall see.

Brown's and Gadsby's are already crowded with quidnuncs and politicians. Many office seekers and 'waiters upon Providence,' are also in attendance. More Reporters, Letter Writers and Washington correspondents are 'on the spot,' than have ever yet been seen. They are, generally, men of taste, tact and talent, and will distribute throughout the country graphic and interesting accounts of the doings and sayings in the Capitol. They have already commenced their labors.

An Overseer wanted.

THE subscriber wishes to employ for the ensuing year, an Overseer, who can come well recommended for competency, industry and honesty. To such a one, liberal wages will be given; and none other need apply.

JOHN BROHAWN.

Dec. 10

A Negro wanted.

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Dec. 10

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