EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality reduces the Manners—agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

VOL. XXII. EASTON, (MD.) SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 21, 1839. No. 39.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY *Saturday Morning*, BY

Alexander Graham.

TERMS.

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS Per annum, payable half yearly in advance

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding a square inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR; and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS for every subsequent insertion.

The reply of the Hon. S S. Prentiss of Mississippi to the letter inviting him to become a candidate for the U. S. Senate.

VICKSBURG, August 10, 1839.

GENTLEMEN:

I have been honored by the receipt of your letter of the 29th of June, transmitting to me a copy of the proceedings of the whigs of Madison county, at a public meeting held by them "for the purpose of recommending a candidate to succeed the Hon. R. J. Walker in the Senate of U. States,"

My own nomination for that office of high honor and trust was entirely unexpected, and at once gratified and perplexed me. I am not insensible to that ambition which seeks the good opinion of others, and is gratified by its exhibition, even when colored by kind partiality and friendly prejudice. That the whigs of Madison deem me worthy of occupying a seat in the highest deliberative body on earth has not failed to awaken the most grateful emotions. But I was perplexed as to the course proper for me to pursue. I had never indulged the vanity of supposing that my services could be of sufficient importance to require my continuance in political life any longer than my inclinations prompted. Accordingly after mature reflection I long since determined to abandon at the earliest opportunity, all participation, except as a private citizen, in political affairs; in the contests of which, even my limited observation had discovered imbecility too frequently pass for capacity, hypocrisy for candor, and cold hearted selfishness for ardent and disinterested patriotism. Political science has become for the most part, the science of deception. Not only are the dictates of reason and experience set at naught, but facts themselves defied.—Physical truths no less than moral, which have for ages been considered impregnable, fall like beleaguered cities before the cunning devices of modern political warfare. The mausoleum of history affords no protection for the remains of the past. Political sorcery evokes from them foul spirits which never acted or controlled their existence—and the events of a former age are compelled to bear false witness before the present. What happened yesterday is denied to day, and plain modest truth is stared out of countenance by audacious mendacity. The conclusion, therefore, is not to be wondered at, that in these dark and corrupt times, private happiness and public service are incompatible.

Both inclination and private interest forbade me to abandon my cherished and rapidly maturing plans of future life, and admonished me of the rashness of again plunging among the wild breakers of public opinion where the barque that moves straight forward, is almost sure to be swamped, while the tacking and veering craft by adapting itself to each sudden change of wind and wave, gains the port in safety. On the other hand, I could not forget the obligations which bind me to our beloved State—obligations that shall never call upon me in vain, when they point out a mode by which I can liquidate any portion of the heavy claim Mississippi justly holds against me.—Neither was I regardless of the gratitude due to the whigs for the bold, untiring, and successful warfare which they have waged against the party in power; a party under the baneful influence of whose destructive theories & corrupt practices the prosperity of this great nation has withered and died. Above all, I remembered with pride and exultation that the whigs of Mississippi had preserved the honor of the State, when the opposite party, Esau like, was bargaining it away for a mess of political pottage. They, and they alone are entitled to the immortal praise of having warded off the first traitorous blow aimed at the elective franchise. It was beneath their stern response that the servile tools of the President shrunk abashed, and it was upon their mandate they surrendered the rich jewel they had stolen.

Me the whigs have already honored far beyond my humble deserts, and in retiring from political contests, I did not doubt that I should be succeeded by those who would with equal zeal and ampler capacity, fight the great battle of principle.

I hesitated, therefore, on receiving your communication, not from any question of my duty in sacrificing private and personal considerations to the success of the good cause, but from fears lest the partialities of my friends in Madison had betrayed them into an injudicious selection. From the subsequent action of the whigs in other parts of the State, however, I have been forced to the conclusion, that whether judiciously or not, they are desirous of placing me in nomination. Being convinced of this fact from the proceedings of various public meetings as well as the general expression of the whig press, I do not hesitate any longer in placing myself in the hands of my political friends, with the distinct understanding, that inasmuch as I accede to their wishes, not from motives of personal agrandizement, but from a sincere desire to do my duty to the country, so my name shall be at once withdrawn from nomination, should subsequent observation indicate, as it very probably will, some more appropriate candidate.

The reasonable hypothesis of an epistle will hardly admit of an extended exposition of political doctrines, nor indeed, do I consider it the most desirable channel for their inculcation. Neither do I deem it requisite for me, on the present occasion, to go into any labored disquisition upon subjects which I have had the good fortune to discuss before the people at large, in almost every county of the State. I need only say that my opinions in relation to the present administration and its measures have been greatly fortified by the observation and experience of the last year. The developements which have been made in relation to the conduct of the financial affairs of the government have astonished and shocked the whole nation. It is now a matter not of mere surmise or partisan invective, but of solemn demonstration based upon admitted and undeniable facts, investigated, vouched for and published under the deliberate sanction of the popular branch of Congress, that the Treasury department is rotten to the core; that it is but the pander to executive power, and exercises its high functions, not for the good of the country, but of party; not honestly, for the general welfare, but wickedly and corruptly for the most sinister purposes. Since Mr. Van Buren ascended the chair of State it has exhibited a system of peculation & connivance unprecedented in any government. The correspondence between its chief and his subordinates is offensive to the moral sense, and insulting to the intelligence of the people. Its open and unblushing profligacy would have shocked even the loose notions of that most venal of ministers, Sir Robert Walpole whose political maxim was, "that every man has his price." Corruption has been traced, not merely to the doors, but into the very recesses of the temple. By the foot prints upon the floor we have discovered, as did the Chaldeans of old, that the rich offerings laid by the people upon the shrine have been carried away and consumed, not by the God, but by the *juggling priests*.

Under ordinary circumstances, and in ordinary times, the developements to which I allude would have prostrated any administration however powerful Unfortunately the deep distress which has pervaded the country, and spread dismay and ruin through all the avennes of business, has in some degree withdrawn the eyes of the people from these great enormities, and directed them with melancholy earnestness to their own private sufferings. Thus the rude blow which the robber bestows with one hand diverts the attention for a moment from the theft he is committing with the other.

But corruption is by no means the only remarkable characteristic of the party in power. Out of the very ruin its measures have brought upon the country, does it contrive to extract political capital. With unblushing effrontery its partisans assert that it is not accountable for the results of its own action; that the distresses of the country have been produced by the operation of whig principles, and all the responsibility lies at the doors of the opposition. The unfortunate patient, who, from a state of perfect health has been reduced by the nostrums of the quack to the point of death, is gravely told by the ignorant pretender that his miserable condition is not owing to the nauseous doses he has taken but is entirely attributable to his former physician, whose prescription he has discarded for years. A grosser insult was never offered to the good sense of an intelligent people.

The party in power is solely responsible for the sufferings under which the country is still laboring. Its mad and licentious schemes destroyed the best currency in the world and gave us instead, the present bloated and miserable system whose sickly and convulsive action impedes every step of enterprise and paralyzes the hand of industry. One of those schemes has been a systematic and diabolical attempt to destroy all confidence, public or private. The vilest slanders against the institutions and capacities of the country have been every where promulgated, until the lowering eye of distrustful suspicion is glaring with baneful influence over the whole land. Credit, the child of confidence and the nurse of enterprise, has shared the fate of its parent. The currents of business have been rudely diverted, and now creep lazily along through choked and tortuous channels.

During the existence of a United States Bank, the mixed currency of paper and precious metals performed to admiration all its appropriate functions. At present it is totally inadequate to the fulfillment of its duty as a medium of domestic commerce, or for the transaction of the most ordinary affairs of business.

When Gen. Jackson determined upon the destruction of that Bank, he did not, nor did his partisans, then deny, that it afforded a sound circulating medium, and constituted a cheap and efficient channel through which to conduct the exchanges of the country. He pretended, however, that all these functions could be as well fulfilled by the State Banks, which he said were entirely adequate to that purpose. He proposed to dispense with this great wheel, on the express ground that it added neither power nor certainty to the machine—that the system was perfect without it. Experience has exposed what reason strove in vain to do, the utter fallacy of Gen. Jacksons view on this subject. It was always strenuously opposed by the whigs, and is at length entirely abandoned by the other party. The whigs predicted, that in the absence of a national Bank each State would endeavor through its own incorporations to seize the largest control of the currency; that thus a great number of weak and jealous systems would be thrown in rude collision; and the common good of the people entirely lost sight of, in the clashing interests of a thousand institutions mutually hostile to each other, incapable of aggregate action, and individually incompetent for any but local purposes.

Our predictions have been verified to the letter. So far the State Bank system has proved a failure.

All now admit its total incompetency, under its present organization and mode of operation for furnishing a sound and uniform currency, or for carrying on the exchanges of the country.

But its original advocates as a national system, instead of honestly acknowledging their error, and returning with us to that excellent path, from whence in an evil hour they strayed, with their characteristic modesty deny that they ever advocated the system, and not only repudiate their own paternity, but boldly lay their illegitimate offspring at the door of the whigs.

In other countries ministers are responsible for measures, and upon their success depends the stability of the administration. Here, it seems those out of power are held amenable for the malpractices and failures of those who wield it; and we are charged not only with their unwise acts, but with their worn out and discarded opinions. At all events, both parties acknowledge the inefficiency of the present system, and the necessity of a change. The party in power, clearly indicates its intention to wage a war of extermination against its old allies the state banks and aims at the establishment upon their ruins of the sub treasury system. In our own state this is openly avowed. Taking advantage of the well founded indignation of the people against the miserable system, which they themselves fostered into existence and which is now pressing like an incubus upon the state the friends of the administration have long since commenced a fierce crusade against all sorts of banking, state or national. All bank paper currency is repudiated by them, and banks no matter how honestly conducted, denounced in the most unmeasured terms, not only as anti-republican but also, in the language of one of their distinguished leaders, as arming, a "fatal blow at private morality and at public virtue, & as a consequence, destructive of all pure and sincere religion."

On the other hand the whigs are desirous of *reforming* not of *destroying* the paper money system. They believe the plan of an exclusive gold and silver currency, not only absurd, but in this country impractic ble. They advocate a mixed currency of coin and bank paper convertible into coin at the will of the holder. They believe the present state bank system incapable of producing such a result; but in conjunction with a United States Bank, they know its entire competency for the purpose.

The whigs are therefore in favor of establishing a National Bank, independent of executive influence, but under strict accountability to the representatives of the people. They are in favor of such an institution, simply because they see no other mode of attaining their object, which is a sound and uniform currency.

The sub-treasury scheme which is set up as the antagonist of a U. S. Bank, does not even propose to produce such a result, but modestly assumes its sole function to be the collection and disbursement of the public revenues. If this be the extent of the measure, its adoption by no means dispenses with the necessity of a National Bank, for the collection and disbursement of the revenues, would constitute but a small portion of the functions of such an institution. If on the other hand, it is intended, as it doubtless is, that the sub-treasury shall furnish a paper currency, in the shape of its drafts and checks, then it will constitute, to all intents and purposes a Government Bank, under the control of the executive, what the whigs of all things, most fear and abhor.

I am therefore opposed to the sub-treasury scheme, not only on account of its intrinsic and essential defects as a financial system, but also because it proposes in its selfish policy, to protect the government and not the people, and professes to confine its benefits entirely to the former.

I believe the people of the United [illegible] require and are entitled from some [illegible], to a good, sound and convenient currency. I do not believe gold and silver alone can furnish it. I do not believe the state banks alone can furnish it. I do believe the object can be accomplished by the charter of a National Bank, and that Congress has the constitutional power to grant such a charter. Sooner or later the people will compel them to do it. The present system of things cannot be submitted to much longer. Tirades against banks and credit may for a moment tickle the ear but they afford no relief to the sufferings of an outraged and betrayed community. The people have been waiting long enough for relief from the measures of the dominant party. They are now looking in another quarter. They demand some better argument against a National Bank than the pious apprehensions of the advocates of the sub-treasury; and a better model for the conduct of their affairs, than the *Island of Cuba*, that colonial vassal, of the worst governed nation on earth.

It is in vain to talk, even if the thing were desirable, of eradicating all the state banks; it could be effected only by a surrender, on the part of all the states, of the power to charter such institutions. To suppose this surrender will be made, is absurd: Even should it, the present generation could not attain the proposed object. The larger portion of the banks now in existence in the U. States are protected by the sanctity of contract and shielded by the strong arm of the constitution. A majority of them cannot be got rid of without their own consent, unless the people see fit to follow the advice of certain desperate and miserable partizans of the administration, and suppress them by physical force.

I do not apprehend that my country men will follow such wicked counsel.—I take it then for granted that, in some shape or other, the banking system will continue to exist, at least during our generation. This being the case, the refusal to establish a National Bank will not relieve the country from the curse, as some are pleased to term it, of a paper currency. All the evils which can possibly be predicated upon a National Bank, with many more, are likely to result from the present system, while the latter is incapable of affording, but in a very small degree, the facilities and advantages of

The most frequently urged, and most popular objection to a National Bank, is that which is deduced from its power. It is said that a Mammoth Institution of this sort, with a capital of 50 000,000 would be able not only to control the currency, but through that, to regulate by its expansions and contractions, the prices both of labor and property; that thus the whole community would be involved in its meshes, and so it would prove at the same time, dangerous to the government and fatal to the liberties of the people. But, though the experience of the past, ought to quiet all honest apprehensions of this sort, yet even supposing them reasonable, I would ask are not the same dangers more impending under the present system? The state banks now present the spectacle of a large number of petty independent chiefs waging war upon each other. The stronger overcome the weaker, and the contest goes on until some one wiser and more powerful than the rest, reduces all to subjection, and rules over them with despotic sway. The state banks even now are weary of the ruinous strife, and anxious to place themselves under the protection of some institution sufficiently powerful to sustain them. Many have already sworn allegiance to the great Bank of Pennsylvania.—Others are ready to follow the example; but the greater portion are anxiously awaiting the final determination of the people whether they shall submit to the control of a national or a mere state institution—Around the former they would all rally and acting with confidence and concert, the immediate result would be, a sound and uniform currency, and a restored and healthy credit. It is worthy of observation, that some of the very states, which object to the chartering by Congress, of a National Bank, lest it should prove too powerful for the country, very modestly propose to charter similar institutions at home for the purpose of affording a currency, not only for themselves, but for their neighbors. This has been already accomplished by Pennsylvania Her Mammoth Institution is in full operation, beyond our reach or control, and yet with all the capacity for evil that could be attributed to a National Bank by its most bitter opponent. Its issues at this very moment, command a premium in this state, over gold and silver. Our exchanges such as they are, are principally under its control. What could prevent this institution, with her immense credit and capital from saturating the whole country, if she pleased, with her issues? she could emit her hundreds of millions & it would all be grasped at; she could then contract this unnatural expansion, call in the paper, and, according to the argument of those opposed to a National Bank purchase at half price from a bankrupt community the property of the country. If such a power must exist, let it be under the control and supervision of the whole people, and not of a single state. But this is the beginning only. Other states complain of this power, are preparing to struggle for participation.—Look at the great South Carolina Rail Road Bank, already chartered in several states, and determined no doubt, to seize the control and regulation of the currency of the South.

Look at the idea, long since thrown out, and now ripe for action, of a fifty million Bank in the city of New York. Is not the currency of Mississippi already at the mercy of other states? Shall we continue to groan under this degrading vassalage? Which will Mississippi prefer? as the regulator of her currency and exchanges a bank chartered by a single state, in the construction and limitations of which, she has no voice, and in the supervision and control of which she has no power, or one chartered by Congress, in every provision of which her voice will be heard, in every limitation her suggestions considered, and over the conduct and operations of which she will in common with the other states, exercise a continual supervision and control? The question now submitted to the people is whether the currency of the country shall be restored and regulated through the action of the representatives of all the states, or by the legislation and monied power of a single state? I regret that the limits of this communication, will not permit me to enter more at large upon this view of the financial question; I trust, however I have thrown out sufficient hints on the subject to attract attention, and to constitute a starting point for reflection.—But I have already exceeded the boundaries I had prescribed. If the people shall see fit, through their representatives, to elevate me to the high and arduous station towards which your kind partialities have pointed, I can only say that for the fidelity of my future service, I offer them the guaranty of the past. To my fellow citizens of Madison whom you represent, as well as to the whigs of other sections of the state who have honored me with their unexpected and unsought confidence, allow me to express my most sincere and grateful acknowledgements. That I may evermore prove worthy of their good opinion is my highest desire; that I may be able, in even the smallest degree to advance our common principles, is my sole ambition. To yourselves gentlemen, permit me to present my thanks, together with my best wishes for your individual prosperity.

Very respectfully,
Your obd't servant,
S. S. PRENTISS.

To Messrs.
T. J CATCHINGS,
J H. ROLLINS.
C. C. SHACKELFORD,
JNO VONTGOMERY,
WM. W. HAYDEN. } Committee.

ADVICE TO HOUSEWIVES.

Those who make candles will find it a great improvement to steep the wicks in lime water and saltpetre, and dry them. The flame will be clear and the tallow will not "run."

Britannia ware should be first rubbed gently with a woollen cloth and sweet oil; then washed in warm suds and rubbed with soft leather and whiting. Thus treated, it will retain its beauty to the last.

New iron should be very gradually heated at first, after it has become inured to the heat it is not likely to crack.

It is a good plan to put new earthen ware into cold water, and let it heat gradually until it boils, then cool again. Brown earthen ware, particularly, may be toughened in this way. A handful of rye or wheat bran thrown in while it is boiling, will preserve the glazing, so that it will not be destroyed by acid or salt.

Clean a brass kettle before using it for cooking, with salt and vinegar.

The oftener carpets are shaken the longer they will wear; the dirt that collects under them grinds out the threads.

If you wish to preserve fine teeth, always clean them thoroughly after you have eaten your last meal at night.

Woollens should be washed in very hot suds, and not rinsed. Luke warm water shrinks them.

Do not wrap knives and forks in woollens. Wrap them in good strong paper. Steel is injured by lying in woollens.

Suet keeps good all the year round, if chopped and packed in a stone jar, covered with molasses.

Barley straw is the best for beds; dry corn husks slit into shreds are better than straw.

Brass andiron should be cleaned, done up in papers, and put in a dry place during the summer.

When molasses is used in cooking it is a prodigious improvement to boil and skim it before you use it. It takes out the unpleasant raw taste and makes it almost as good as sugar. Where molasses is used much for cooking, it is well to prepare one or two gallons in this way at a time. Never allow ashes to be taken up in wood, or put into wood. Always have your tinder box and lamp ready for use in case of sudden alarm—Have important papers all together where you can lay your hand on them at once in case of fire.

Use hard soap to wash your clothes, & soft to wash your floors. Soft soap is so slippery that it wastes a good deal in washing clothes.

It is easy to have a supply of horse radish all winter. Have a quantity grated while the root is in perfection, put it in bottles, fill it with vinegar, and keep it corked tight.

ECONOMY IN FUEL.—Professor Olmstead, of Yale College, has written a letter containing some valuable hints and suggestions, on the subject of economy in fuel. We annex its most important paragraphs:

I think that in the estimates given us of the heating powers of different kinds of fuel, sufficient regard is not paid to the peculiar use to which it is applied.—Wood that affords a great amount of flame in burning may be very economical in cases where the flame is available, as dry chesnut in heating an oven, but of very little power where radiant heat is required, as when burnt in a fire place Flame heats intensely a surface upon which it plays, but radiates very little heat.

In regard also to the degree of seasoning which ought to be given to wood, much will depend upon the use that is to be made of it. While in cases where the water is converted into a vapor there is a great loss of heat, yet when the water itself is decomposed it adds greatly to the intensity of the fire. I have burned billets of green wood along with anthracite coal in my stove, with great economy. When the coal is in a full state of ignition, I throw in as large a billet of green oak or hickory as the stove will admit, and shut up all close. As the vapor is given out and brought into close contact with the ignited coal, it is decomposed and makes an extremely hot and durable fire. A small billet five or six inches in diameter, will thus last from four to six hours, and afford an incredible amount of heat. By the decomposition of the watery vapor, the stove is filled with hydrogen gas, which coming in contact with the extensive surfaces of sheet iron afforded by the radiator of my stove, diffuses an immense amount of heat into the room. This is a mode of using wood along with coal which may be made extremely advantageous to parts of our country where wood is cheap and coal dear. The finer varieties of coal, as the nut coal, are best suited to this purpose. With one ton of nut coal and something less than a cord of green white oak, sawn into billets, I support the stove in my family room through the season.

TOO GOOD TO BE LOST.—We find the following communication in the Albany Argus of the 22d ult. To those who, like Mr. Bloore, find it "impossible to take a little," we warmly recommend the like conduct.

"It is related of Dr Johnson, that when urged by a friend to "take a little wine"—he declined the polite solicitation, remarking, "I have found it impossible to take a little." And, the writer of this having becoming satisfied that he is precisely in the Doctor's situation, has resolved hereafter to deny himself all indulgencies of the kind.

A communication of this description, may by some, be thought obtrusive: but lest he should hereafter be regarded as unsocial by those friends with whom he has occasionally indulged in a "cup of kindness," and to save the necessity of personal explanations, he begs leave to offer to them, collectively an apology, which he has no doubt will be entirely satisfactory."

J. BLOORE.

Waterford, August 20th 1839.

PROOF THAT A MAN IS DEAD.

A subscriber to one of the eastern papers, a few years ago, being sadly in arrears for the same, promised the editor that if his life was spared to a certain day, he would not fail to discharge his bill. The day passed and the bill was not paid. The natural conclusion was that the man was dead—absolutely defunct. Proceeding on this conclusion, the editor in his next paper placed the name of his delinquent, under the obituary head, with the attending circumstances of time & place. Pretty soon after this announcement, the subject of it appeared to the editor—not with the pale and ghastly countenance usually ascribed to apparitions, but with a face red as scarlet. Neither did it, like other apparitions, wait to be spoken to, but broke silence with—

"What the d—l, sir, did you mean by publishing my death?"

"Why, sir, the same that I mean when I publish the death of any other person, viz: to let the world know that you are dead."

"Well, but I'll be cursed if I am dead."

Not dead! then it is your own fault, for you told me that you would positively pay your bill by such a day if you lived till that time. The day is past, the bill is not paid, and you positively must be dead; for I will not believe that you will forfeit your word, oh, no!"

I see you have got around me, Mr. Editor, but say no more about it; here's the money.—And harkee, Mr. wag, you'll contradict my death next week?"

"Oh certainly sir, to please you: tho' upon my word I can't help thinking you died at the time specified, and that you

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2940_scm11031-0643.jpg