From the Georgetown Metropolitan.

THE PEOPLE'S OPINION.

One of the most overwhelming and decisive demonstrations of public opinion—in relation to the present course of the Banks in suspending specie payments—we have ever witnessed, was exhibited at the great meeting of the citizens, which took place at the City Hall on Saturday evening last.

It was well known that this meeting was called together for the avowed purpose of sustaining the banks in their present oppressive course, by procuring the Corporation credit to cover an enormous issue of due bills, representing the various denominations of silver change, now locked up in their vaults, and for the want of which, in consequence, the community in every petty transaction of business, is exposed to the most serious inconvenience. This embarrassment and loss which extends to every ramification of society, had, in a manner, necessiated the public mind to receive some such measure with approbation; and even those, conscientiously, politically, or commercially, averse to a currency of due bills, were disposed to acquiesce in their issue by the Corporation, to save the community from the lower depth, and the greater evils, inseparable from their general issue by irresponsible individuals.

No doubt was therefore anticipated but that the resolutions would prevail, if not unanimously, at least by a very large majority;—which opinion prevailed up to the very hour of assembling the meeting, which was composed of our most respectable citizens and merchants, and was fully organized in accordance with the views of those who had called it together.

The occasion was however deemed a favorable one, by the friends of specie—that large class, moreover—who are anxious to sustain the banks by every proper means—and who fully sympathize with the embarrassments that threaten them from the financial evils of the day, but who are still deeply averse to a voluntary return to the national degredation. and the private misery of a universal, hopeless, and worthless paper currency—to test, calmly and reasonably, but decidedly, the great question, as to whether that supreme and dark necessity, which should alone tolerate or warrant such a measure, did actually exist. An expedieut, unknown to the history of any country, except in times of profound and awful national disaster, and now about to overwhelm us in a time of long continued and prosperous peace, and with a national character lustrous with the honours of triumphant justice and vindicated right—in a time, too, of a national financial prosperity, altogether unknown to the history of nations—a time of debt redeemed, and redundant treasury, and imposing moral influence.

Those belonging to this class—residing in the city—and does it not embrace every one in the country, who views the subject patriotically and dispassionately?—resolved then, to make, if possible, this meeting a means of really knowing the worst. Their views and opinions will be found expressed clearly and decidedly in the preamble and rosolutions of Mr. Cunningham, a respectable and influential mechanic, who was most appropriately selected to present them, as representing the bone and muscle of the country—the class most deeply and wrongfully affected by the present state of things, and who have in sober sincerity of expression, such a VITAL interest in the mighty question of its continuance.

The manner in which these resolutions were received by that highly respectable and intelligent meeting, will conclusively show, that the public fully and most accurately appreciate the present anomalous and unexampled state of things. THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN! Their request sufficiently indicates their moderation. They are satisfied that the banks should receive every indulgence their situation entitles them to, but the paramount rights of society must not be sacrificed. The working classes of this country are innocent of the causes, whatever they may be, that have produced this dread catastrophe. They ought not, they need not, they must not, be made to pay ALL the penalty. Yes, ALL; for the merest tyro, in financial economy, knows that when the day of reckoning comes, as come it must, the balance must be struck, and the accounts settled, not by the possessors of the hoarded gold and silver; of the 50,000 and the 1,000 dollar notes; but by those who have earned their bread by the sweat of their brow, and hold the five and ten cents rags, and the paper dollars, as the earnings of their toil.

These resolutions will speak to the country with a voice that will find millions of listeners. They are, strictly speaking, *Metropolitan Resolutions*, and their effect abroad will be like that they produced at the meeting from which they emanate. The moment they were read, the others were forgotten. 'Eclipse was first—the rest no where.'—They speak the voice of truth and soberness. They ask what is reasonable, and what cannot be disregarded. They simply ask the Banks to redeem their $5 bills.

We do not think that a bank in the District will refuse to accede to this request, of which the justice is equal to the necessity. The expectations of the community are as moderate as they are decided—the banks can readily guard themselves from the attempts of speculation—not more than ten or twenty dollars each day. This will prevent a run with these notes, and any serious drain of the specie. The citizens and merchants on the other hand, may refuse to take non-specie-paying paper in return for their own; and dishonest traffic in our honest notes will be prevented effectually.

This measure will be of vast public benefit. It will save us, at once, from a ruinous issue of depreciated paper, it will give us in abundance, the only safe and constitutional currency—it will tend more than any similar means, to restore confidence—it will form a certain standard of value by which, in a short time, our financial system, agitated and deranged as it is, can be regulated and restored—and above all, it will form a bright example, which every other bank will soon be compelled to follow, and the country, at large, will thus have an earnest that the dreadful and oppressive evils of a nominal and perfectly worthless currency, which once introduced, will be daily becoming more and more valueless—will not be perpetuated upon us. We know more than one bank which is prepared, at once, to adopt this measure—and we await with much interest the result of the official inquiry of the committee.

From the Hartford Times.

Is it not the duty of the public and of legislators to commence restricting banks to legitimate banking, and prohibit their issuing bills as *currency*. Say what they will—do what they will—talk, write, preach, and declaim—after all, paper is not money—and never was intended as such by the framers of the Constitution. It is all quackery to pretend it.

I am not an enemy to banking, any more than I am to any other calling; but I am opposed to the usurpations of banks—I am opposed to their issuing of paper, as the representative of money. It is a *false* and *knavish* representative as much so, as those who granted incorporated banks the power to make such issues were false representatives of the people. If banks would confine themselves to *discounts* and *deposites*, and to fair dealing in *exchange*, they would not be so much to be deprecated as at present, and all would soon admit the propriety of individual competition.

Would it not be well for the Legislature to commence this work, at this time when all are experiencing the evil of the present banking system. The events of the last few days have overthrown all the arguments that have been advanced to show the superiority of *paper* over *money*. Facts have convinced all of us that gold and silver are better than bank notes. The man who has his means in specie, is more independent than he who has only bank bills. The former fears nothing from insolvent banks—depreciated paper—or the suspension of payment.

The banks in this State are probably solvent, so far as bill-holders and depositors are concerned; but it appears from the late report of the committee that they had only *one dollar in money for ten given in promises*. The stockholders must, however, advance their whole investments, and if necessary, sacrifice all to redeem the bills, so that the notes will, probably be ultimately paid, and the banks may be considered solvent. Still, it is impossible to collect a debt of them, and having suspended the payment of specie, they may, if not restricted, issue millions—until paper is worth no more than at the close of the revolutionary war, when five hundred dollars would not pay for a dinner.

A good deal is said by some in favor of repealing the law prohibiting small bills. Now that paper is becoming bad, they say give us more of it, and drive the specie we have out of circulation. Is this wisdom? Is it just? Who is to be benefitted by giving us more bank notes, instead of curtailing them?

These are questions which all should revolve in their own minds before acting. If any good is to come from repealing the small bill law and extending bank issues, I confess myself totally incapable of comprehending it Instead of so doing, I would pursue the other course.

If any legislation is to be had on this subject, and I think legislation is necessary, why should not the banks be compelled, under a forfeiture of their charters, to redeem with specie all the notes under five dollors until the first of October next. After the first of October compel them to redeem, under the same penalty, all notes less than ten dollars.

The effect of such a step would be to raise the value of Connecticut bills under five and ten dollars over and above those of any other State, and at the same time, though the banks should be squeezed, the people could breathe. A discrimination has already commenced between specie and paper, and it is daily growing broader and deeper, and the banks will find that their promises will not stand through this crisis—that they cannot again obtain public confidence. We must come back to money. Banks ought not to issue promises as currency. Let us get up into the region of twenty dollars, and all will, with one voice, carry them to a hundred, when we shall no longer be troubled with trash.

As I before remarked, I am not opposed to banking when confined to its legitimate purposes, but I am opposed to their usurping the [illegible] SPECIE

From the London Courier.

LONDON, April 7.—The Bank of England has been again compelled to come forward with a fresh loan to sustain the falling credit of certain parties engaged in the American trade. The extraordinary circumstances under which the houses engaged in that trade have been placed by the non arrival of packets from America, would seem to justify and warrant an interference of this sort on the part of the Bank, though we must say, speaking generally, that this continued tinkering and bolstering cannot be too much deprecated, particularly when it is recollected that the Bank of England has not at this moment the third part of the treasure she ought to possess; and when the fact, that not a single ounce of bullion has returned to us from the Continent, to which we exported during the adverse exchange of the past year above two millions sterling, shows conclusively that the currency is still in excess, and ought to be diminished. It is not enough, in vindication of the relief afforded to embarrassed houses, to say, that their transactions have been fair and honorable. Nothing can justify the bank in coming forward to bolster them up, that is, doing what, in her present situation, is obviously inconsistnnt with all sound principles, but the injury that would arise to the public interests by her resolutely adhering to the strict line of duty. If this injury be great and and emminent, the bank will be justified, but not otherwise. However honorable the transactions of the American houses, it is certain that the majority for there are exceptions, have conducted their business with the most reckless improvidence, and in such a way as called forth at a distant period, from parties acquainted with the facts, the most confident predictions of their ruin. It is certain, indeed, that they could not have gone so very far beyond their means as they have done, but for the support and encouragement given them by the money dealers. The latter are, in fact, by far the greatest culprits, and have evinced the most stupendous infatuation and ignorance in their transactions with the American houses, of which any example is to be found in the history of commerce. They first gave them unlimited credit, and could not get too many of their bills; and when the natural course of events (for they never could have discovered it themselves) made them aware of the consequences of their conduct, and of the extreme risk they were running, they instantly got upon the opposite tack; from unhesitating confidence they went to the extreme of suspicion and distrust, and totally rejected the paper of which a little while before they could not get too much.

What may be the denouement of this affair no individual can at present foresee, but, however, it may end it is certain that it will ever form one of the most discreditable chapters in the history of British commerce. Nothing of any kind has occurred to interrupt the intercourse between this country and America, nor has any thing occurred in either country to lesen its resources or to diminish its power of meeting its engagements. There has not, in fact, been any more room or real ground for derangement in the intercourse between Liverpool and New York, than in that between Liverpool and Manchestor, or between London and Hampstead. Instead of being involved in the greatest difficulties, and threatened with total ruin, the parties engaged in the trade, had they displayed the most ordinary prudence or sagacity, would have been conducting a secure business and realizing handsome profits. But they would not be satisfied with this. Parties with one or two hundred thousand pounds must needs carry on a business for which a capital of one or two millions would hardly have been adequate; in consequence they had to depend wholly on discounts, became gamblers instead of merchants, and are now reaping that natural and legitimate fruits of their conduct. We believe Jonathan has managed his part of the business with infinitely more sense and discretion than has been displayed on this side the water. Unless he has done so, there will be a frightful extent of bankruptcy.

Curious Adventure.—A schooner bearing the name of the Western Trader, having on board several hands, cleared from Cleaveland for Detroit, on the 13th of last December, and became fixed in the ice on the 17th, about fifteen miles from Detroit River. Since that time up to Friday last, the vessel has been embedded in the ice, while her crew, subjected to short supplies of clothing and food, have been exposed to the "pelting of the pitiless storm" for more than five months in the most forbidding season of the year. This little company, whose adventures under different circumstances, would afford a subject of thrilling romance, have been deprived of the blessings of home and the comforts of all domestic and social society. Providence, however, had some regard for our adventurers, and the eye which numbers the hairs of our heads and watches the motions of the sparrow, was not unmindful of those who were destined to be exposed to the storms of a severe winter. Fortunately the cargo of the Trader consisted in part of corn.—This was ground in a coffee mill, and, though destitute of salt or any thing savory, it was made into cakes, which were not only palatable but even luxurious. For fuel they were compelled to use oats, and thus for five months they contrived to keep themselves from starving. It was the determination of the Captain of the Trader, from the outset of his troubles, to preserve his vessel, and in this determination he was nobly seconded by his crew. During all the exposure, therefore, of his vessel the only damage sustained is simply an injury which is easily repaired. The schr. when she arrived at Dunkirk, last Friday, was complete, and uninjured, with the exception of the fore gaff, bulk-heads, berths, &c., which had to be cut away for fuel.

The log book furnished to the editor of the Dunkirk Beacon, states that upon one occasion the crew left the vessel near Conneaut, in order to procure provisions, which place they left with a back load each, having taken the precaution to procure a whip saw, which proved of great advantage, as on nearing the vessel, they found from a change in the wind, a chasm of 5 rods in width; this obstacle was surmounted, by cutting of a large cake of ice, upon which the whole party floated over in safety.

Subsequently, the mate alone, was placed in a similar predicament, but without the like success.—A squall arising, created an open space of two miles, over which he had to pass on his slippery raft; the cutting wind blowing at the time, obliged him to bind his wrists and ancles with threads of his clothes; but notwithstanding which he was severely frostbitten, yet reached the schooner in safety.

The crew seem to have been indefatigable in their exertions, as about the middle of March, the pressure of the ice became so great as to lift the schooner *two feet* out of the water; they fixed a purchase at the mast head, and succeeding in cutting and raising blocks of ices sufficient to let her freely into the water. A change in the wind afterwards increased the pressure, so that she laid nearly on her beam ends, with her bow clear out of the water; however, the hardy bark withstood every shock, and we believe is now, without a timber having been strained.

'For amusement,' says the Beacon, 'during this dreary captivity, they had a few books, but with the true spirit of sailors, their chief consolation seemed to be derived from contrasting their situation with that of the crew of the Commerce cast away on the coast of Africa, Robins' description of which they had on board. The crew unanimously agree, that loss of food was not more severely felt, than the want of tobacco.

THE BEN SHERROD.—The conduct of the Captain of the Ben Sherrod is calling forth expressions of indignation and disgust at the South, which it richly deserves. A meeting of the citizens of Natchez has been held, and a committee appointed to investigate the conduct of the different officers of the Ben Sherrod, Alton, Columbus and Statesman. Resolves were passed, first, to petition the Legislature to enact such laws as they may deem calculated to remedy the evils complained of, and second, if it be not within the Constitutional power of a State Legislature, to memorialize Congress upon the subject. In the third resolution the conduct of Capt Castleman of the Sherrod, is declared such as to entitle him to the indignation and censure of the community. The fourth expresses the horror and disgust felt by the meeting at the barbarous conduct of Capt. Dougherty of the Alton, who ran his boat among the drowning passengers and passed on without heeding their cries for assistance. Another resolve bestows the highest praise upon Capt. Jones of the Columbus and Capt. Hard of the Statesman and their crews, for their exertion in assisting and rescuing the unfortunate passengers.—Other resolutions wers also passed, to secure a general action upon the subject in the cities and towns on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

We hope the movement will not stop there. It is a matter of general interest, that this desperate sport with the lives and property of passengers be checked at once; and it would tend to help the matter forward, if the representatives from the several states were instructed to use their influence towards passing a law imposing the heaviest penalties upon those proved guilty of such criminal conduct.

From the Mobile Commercial Register.

The fugitive Indians in Florida continue to give great uneasiness there. There are reported to be between two and three hundred of them in Washington and Walton counties, who commit numerous depredations, and occasional murders. Governor CALL ordered out the militia of Jackson county, and gave authority to Col. Jackson Morton, to raise additional forces in Exambia, Washington, and Walton. to rendezvous at Hallet's Landing—whither 20,000 rations were sent from Pennsacola on Sunday the 7th. There was a fight on Gum Creek, about twenty miles from Aiaqua, between a party of Alabama troops and a large body of Indians.—The number of them engaged was about 160,—of whom 16 were killed, and two made prisoners by the whites. The Florida militia had not arrived.

The Pensacola Gazette adds, "in the mean time, we would remark, that there is not the slightest reason to apprehend any danger to those who may have occasion to travel through the country upon the mail route. It must be always borne in mind that the Indians are wretched fugitives, flying from the face of the white man wherever found. The only danger is, that in attempting to kill the cattle or seize on the provisions of the white settles, they may be involved in conflicts which will end in blood We say this, not because we are not fully impressed with the necessity of driving the Indians away, but in order to quiet the groundless apprehensions of persons abroad."

ATTEMPT UPON THE LIFE OF JUDGE KING.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we record the following transaction. some time since, in consequence of a domestic difficulty, a husband and wife, residents of Southwark, parted; and the wife returned to the residence of her father. Sudsequently she made application to the Court of Common Pleas for two of her children, both of tender age, which having been granted, a suit was forthwith instituted against the father for their support. This question came up for dicision before the Court on Wednesday last, and among other evidence the wife swore, that her husband had locked her up in a room and intimidated her with a loaded musket The case was heard in all its bearings, and the Court, through the President, Judge King, gave a decision against the father.

This produced the most painful excitement in the mind of the Defendant, and while in a state of agitation, and labouring under the strongest feelings, he visited the house of Judge King, in Girard street, where he made use of violent language, and remained for nearly an hour.—The Judge endeavoured to appease him by every means in his power, but in vain. He finally drew a loaded pistol from his bosom, and was in the act of presenting it towards the Judge, when the lady of that distinguished judicial officer, whose attention had been arrested by the vehement language of the excited visiter, sprang suddenly between the two, struck the pistol with her hand, and the ball with which it was charged fell upon the floor. But for this act, and presence of mind of Mrs. K., the most fatal consequences might have ensued. The hurried visiter then retreated from the room and discharged his pistol in the air. We forbear from comment as the case will, in all probability, be brought before the proper tribunal.—*Philada. Inq.*

IMPORTANT FROM HAVANA.—*Reported Piratcs.*—We learn by the New Orleans Bee, that the U. S. schr. Grampus, Capt. McIntosh, was at that place on May 2d. Spanish and British men of war gave convoy to vessels through the Gulf and Bahama Channel from reported piracies in that quarter. The Spanish packet from Cadiz, off Salt Key, was about being boarded by a supposed piratical sloop, which on discovering her to be an armed brig bore away. It was also reported that a Spanish brig was fired into by said piratical sloop between Havana and Matanzas. An unusually large number of vessels was in port, and freights to all quarters extremely dull; 20 American ships, 45 brigs and 12 schrs. and from 75 to 80 foreign sail. The U. S. Revenue Cutter Jefferson, Lieut. Fostor, commander, arrived on the 31st ult. from Tampa Bay, with officers of U. S. ship Vandalia, for supplies, and returned on 4th inst. The Rail Road from Havana to Batabaro. S. E. coast of the Island, is to be completed June 1st. Several others are contemplated. There are three fine steamers between Havana and Matanzas; and lately the steamer Yumuri left Havana for Guanaja, the port of Porto Principe, to touch at Matanzas, Cardezas San Juan de los Remedios, being the first regular packet on this line These and all similar improvements receive the largest portion of their impulse from the liberal and enterprising spirit of Governor Tacon. A grand ball was to be given him by the citizens.

Portuguese Claims.—A letter from the Charge d'Affaires of the United States at Spain, to the Hon. J. Reed, states that he has finally succeeded in obtaining Treasury notes from that Government in payment of the claims of citizens of the United States. Specie payments with them, as with our banks, were out of the question, and the notes were taken as being the best money in circulation. The loss on a previous remittance arose from a miscalculation of the value of the Spanish dollar.

From the N. O. True American.

President Houston's message to the Texian Congress has been received at this office.—He is of opinion that all legislation ought to be prospective and for the general good. The prospects of fine crops is alluded to with becoming gratitude to Divine Providence. It seems that the agents to whom land scrip was issued by law for the purpose of raising funds, have not been faithful in their trust, and that in consequence the Treasury has been straitened for want of means. The supply, however, has been cut off, and the attention of Congress earnestly called to the subject. The failure of negotiating the Government bonds for five millions, is properly ascribed to the difficulties in our money market.

It is urged on the Congress to re-model the land laws. Hopes, he says, are entertained, that the boundary between the United States and Texas will be settled by the treaty of 1819. Some dissatisfaction is expressed towards the conduct of the U. States agent in furnishing the Caddo Indians with rifles and ammunition. The conduct of the Mexicans in engaging with the northern Indians to furnish them 2000 warriors, is regarded with just abhorrence. The President congratulates Congress on the condition of the army, and states that the annual expenses are $229,000.

He advises an immediate and effective organization of the navy. Great stress is put upon the prohibition of the slave trade, and appeals are made to England and the U. S. to prevent the landing of Africans in the country. It is hoped that the subject of annexation to the United States will receive the early attention of our Congress. The General speaks in high terms of the wealth of the republic yet in embryo, and alludes to its immense forests of live oak with no little satisfaction.

A blinking is had towards England, should the United States look on them coldly. The President recommends a liberal policy towards citizens of the U. States holding lands within her limits. His message is not long, well written, and concludes with a strong hope that the Almighty Being will watch over the Texians and preserve and govern them as a chosen people.

There is a spirit abroad, in relation to the Banking System of the country, which is not to be put down—a spirit which has gone forth conquering and to conquer, and before which that vicious and anti-democratic system is to sink and is sinking. Arising out of the depths of the broad foundation and basis of the social pyramid—the MASS—it is working upward with a steady and resistless power, until it shall prevade and rule the whole. It cannot and will not be kept down by the superincumbent weight.

It is the indignant will of a great and free people, awakening from a long though restless lethargy, to a consciousness that it has been deceived, abused and oppressed; that system which has insanely overstrained the long sufferance of a patient people, but at length aroused the sluggish but resistless power of that spirit before which it cannot stand. We look upon the proceedings of the great public meetings held almost simultaneously in Philadelphia and in Washington, in relation to the Banks and the suspension of specie payments, as certain indications of this deeply prevading feeling. Will the banks undertake to defy the storm that is gathering against them?

The present suspension of specie payments will never be forgotten nor forgiven by the American people. The decree is sealed—the knell is rung—the hand writing is on the wall—and "the beginning of the end" is begun. A fierce, and, perhaps, desperate conflict has yet indeed to be fought—a period which will try men's souls, and test their principles, is at hand; but we cannot doubt the issue. The democratic principle cannot but prevail.—*Metropolitan.*

No habit fastens itself upon us more firmly than that of extravagance. The luxury in which we indulge this year, becomes next year a necessary; we increase our style of living readily, and often thoughtlessly—but it is reduced always with difficulty and regret. A man should never go into a larger house than he is quite certain he can continue to occupy; never get an article of expensive furniture that he is not quite sure he can afford always to keep; never venture upon a mode of living that he is not quite sure he can always maintain—Because it is easy to refrain, but hard to go back. Of all the ways of living, "living within the means," is the only one that is either clearly rational, stricly honest, or tolerably comfortable.—*Trenton Emp.*

We hear something said occasionally of Female influeuce. We are among the number who believe it is not half as great or extensive as it ought to be. We totally disbelieve the notion of the inferiority of the female mind—and think it ought to be scouted, not only as ungallant, but as unjust. The female sex are unfairly treated. They have as deep an interest in all questions which affect the welfare of the community as we have ourselves. Our wives are involved in the same misfortunes, and share in the same prosperity which affect us. Yet as a general thing, how little are they consulted. How seldom do we ask, weigh well, and act upon their advice. And my observation has been this, in reference to female advice, that, in a majority of instances, it is best—because the safest. The wife almost always is found leaning to the safe side of every question; she cautions us against incuring risks; advises us to keep clear of whatever threatens trouble; she acts more upon first impressions, and takes, generally, simpler, and, therefore, clearer, views of things than we do, who are mixed up with the great world, blinded by the dust and smoke, and turmoil, of business and bustle, and often half distracted with its conflicts and controversies.

We seldom run headlong into speculation with the advice of our wives. We should never become gamblers, or drinkers, or idlers, if we consulted them. I believe in making a confiidant, and counsellor, as well as a friend, of a wife—I would never take an important step without consulting her; if she disapproved it, I should weigh well her reasons, and hesitate long, and be well convinced before I disregarded them. In all the affairs of life, I think the influence of female opinions would produce a salutary check upon the spirit of headlong recklessness which is becoming more and more identified with our character. —Ib.