

Spirit of Jefferson

BY JAMES W. HARRIS

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GENERAL DIX OF NEW YORK.

The Whig press has succeeded to their own satisfaction, in assigning to General Dix of New York, (by the way one of the ablest men of this country,) a position in the Cabinet of General Pierce. Hence he is being assailed from all quarters as a "Free Soiler," and the most noisy Scott-Abolition organ, turn their eyes in holy horror at the idea of the Democracy fraternizing with any one who had ever been suspected of being recent to the South and her institutions. Gen. Dix, it is true, voted for Mr. Van Buren in 1848, but in the recent contest no man in the country conducted the canvass upon more broad, national and patriotic grounds than he did. He heartily endorsed every stamp, the Baltimore platform, and repudiated the charge for himself and the Democratic party of having any affiliation with Abolitionism. But as to whether he is to be a member of the Cabinet, we have no means of knowing but common sense, which we are inclined to think points to another distinguished citizen of New York, Mr. Dickinson. But the idea of the Whig press, that supported Scott, cooperated with Secord, Greeley and their abolition allies in securing a sectional triumph, and grinding the South into powder, undertaking to find fault with the probable promotion of Mr. Dix, is supremely ridiculous. The present administration inaugurated at its advent Tom Ewing, and is likely to end its days with Tom Corwin, beside giving the chief staff in the synagoga to such men as Fitz Henry Warren, Jacob Colamer and other of the most ultra and offensive Abolitionists that are known to the whole Union. It is worse than Satan attempting to rebuke him, and should elicit the unmitigated contempt and disgust of the whole country. The Democracy, in the recent contest, was a unit, a union of the great interests of the country, and came to the advantage of the Democratic party, the time is peculiarly auspicious to reward those to whom only are true to the Constitution, and honest, competent and capable, without stopping to enquire whether he comes from Maine or Georgia.

NEW PROJECTS.

To keep pace with the progress of the times, it will be seen by reference to another column, that two Railroad projects are now suggested, in which our County has a deep interest. A charter was granted some three or four years since, for a Railroad from Harpers-Ferry to Alexandria, which was entirely feasible at the time and the stock could have been taken, as that Alexandria had erected her great engine efforts in another direction. This being completed however, our Potomac City has become awakened as to the necessity of tapping the Baltimore road, and a survey of the road soon made, and its practicability fully tested. The other scheme, is the construction of a Railroad from Mill Creek or Smithfield, to connect with the Winchester road at near Cameron's Depot. No charter will be necessary, nor so stock required to be taken for the construction of this road, if it can be shown that there is sufficient trade to justify the expenditure on the part of the Winchester road. We have heard it stated that this branch would furnish 40,000 barrels of Flour, which now finds an outlet through other channels. The proceedings of a Meeting being completed on Saturday last, fully explains what it is proposed to accomplish, and as our friends of that part of the county, no less than those of Berkeley contiguous, seem to feel a deep interest in the success of the enterprise, they have our best wishes for the speedy completion of so laudable an undertaking.

THE RAILROAD MANIA.

Our Legislature has become run mad on the subject of Railroads, and by reference to our columns to-day, it will be seen that an immense expenditure, nearly three millions of dollars, has passed the House, and only awaits the action of the Senate, to give the binding obligation of law. Some of these appropriations are no doubt just and proper. Others again, have no intrinsic merit, but have been forced through by legislative legerdemain. The aggregate amount is too great for the resources of Virginia, and we hope the Senate may exercise the pruning knife, with that degree of sagacity and wise discretion, which the people of the State have a right to expect at its hands. The "Loan System" which has received the sanction of the House, is not understood by the people, and we confess that we are not sufficiently acquainted with its operations to attempt even to unravel the mysteries which occur to us in its practical workings. The internal improvement party, however, in its wild and mad radical sense, are in the ascendant in the Legislature, and seem determined to carry through their projects at all hazards.

IN PREPARATION.

Messrs. Lippincott, Grambo & Co., of Philadelphia, design publishing a new and complete Gazetteer of the United States, with a map of the United States. The publication of this, the most elaborate, thorough and complete Gazetteer of the United States attempted, has been desired by the absolute impossibility of obtaining the full and complete Census returns, without which any work of the sort must totally fail to answer the purpose for which a Gazetteer is especially needed. The moment a publication of the Census returns is made by Congress—now looked for daily—this new work will be completed and issued.

PORTRAIT GALLERY.

The gallery of Mr. FORNEY, a young and most promising artist, who has been located in our town for several weeks, has become, as it justly should be, a place of general attraction to our citizens. He has taken some several Portraits, which are "true to nature," and among the most finished specimens of Artistic skill we have ever witnessed. In delineating the beautiful lineaments of our belles, he is in fact, what he has greatly improved, by common consent, the rugged features and care worn brows, of some of our noblest bachelors, as well as those gentlemen of "mature age" and numerous responsibilities. Those wishing Portraits, should secure his services immediately, as his stay may not be prolonged, should his services not be speedily called for.

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