

THE FREE PRESS

CHARLESTOWN:

Thursday Morning, April 9.

THE DINNER TO MR. RIVES.—It will be seen by the Correspondence between that gentleman and a number of his friends in Frederick, that will certainly take place in Winchester on Wednesday next. The occasion will no doubt bring together from far and near a large number of people. Mr. R. has filled a large space in the political affairs of the country for several years past, and at present occupies an interesting position in connection with the political history of his own State. At all times commanding by his talents and high character as a politician, the attention of disinterested men; his recent patriotic course has added new lustre to his fame, and made him an object worthy of still higher consideration and veneration. The People will delight to have, in these degenerate times, one who has shown more devotion to country than to self.

We have been requested to state that, for the accommodation of those who wish to attend the dinner, an extra passenger train of cars connects Harper's Ferry at half past seven A. M. on the 15th instant, and return the following morning, leaving Winchester at the same hour. Fare for the trip, from Harper's Ferry to Charlestown \$1.50, and in like proportion for a less distance.

To the Editors of the Free Press:

GENTLEMEN.—Having, in a conversation with some persons at this place, a few days ago, expressed my desire to have my name removed from the list of subscribers to your paper, the name of Mr. Webster having been mentioned, I have since learned that he has made a more extended circulation than was intended, and are now compelled to incur a loss in saying that further publication has removed every doubt, and has satisfied me that it is possible to require the withdrawal of my name from the list. I apprehend it may not result to Dr. S., I have to request that you will give this note an insertion in your next paper.

Respectfully,
GERARD B. WAGER.
Harpers Ferry, April 5, 1840.

THE PROSPECTUS.—The last National Intelligencer contains intelligence in regard to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, and North Carolina, which gives us reason to expect that these States, the most of which have generally been conceded to the Administration, will soon assume their rank in the Union.

The passenger train of cars for Frederick and Harper's Ferry will leave Baltimore at a quarter past nine o'clock in the morning, instead of seven as heretofore. This change, it is stated, has been made in order to facilitate the transportation of the mails from Baltimore to the West.

The station which Col. Johnson occupies as the second officer in the Government, no less than the importance of the subject, demands for his Letter to Mr. Tappan the place in our columns which we have given it hitherto. The letter embraces the views of the Whigs upon the Abolition and Slavery subject, and will be found interesting.

JUDGE WHIRES.—The National Intelligencer of this week says: "We grieve to learn by letters from the West, that we may expect by every mail to hear of the decease of the venerable Judge Whires. The severity of the reason at which he was driven from his seat by the unconstitutional action of the Legislature of his State, and obliged to return home, proved too much for a constitution never very strong, and lately enfeebled by indisposition."

ELECTIONS.—The New York City election for Mayor, &c. will take place next week. We see no predictions as to the result.

The Registry act, which has just passed the Legislature and become a law by receiving the signature of Gov. Seward, only takes effect in part at this election—the Registry being intended to begin in September next. The Wards are to be forthwith split up into districts of about 500 voters each—so that there will be from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five voting places in the city; three inspectors for each voting place, who are to open the ballot-box at sunrise and close it at sun-set, in one day. This, it is thought, will prevent fraudulent voting.

IN CONNECTICUT.—The election of State officers took place on Monday. The Administration have made Herculean efforts to carry the State, and thus the greater will be our achievement in winning a victory.

THE ABOLITIONISTS.—They have had a national Abolition Convention in Albany, New York, six States being represented; at which they nominated James G. Birney for the Presidency, and a Mr. Earl, of Pennsylvania, for the Vice Presidency. They resolved to have separate action and organization, and they would not support Gov. Garrison, for his Abolition views. The Abolitionists of New England, however, have

FLORIDA WAR.—During a debate in the U. S. Senate on Monday last, upon a proposition of Mr. Bent to raise 1500 additional troops to serve against the Florida Indians, Mr. Preston, in the course of some remarks said, that although the Indians had killed many white men within the last year, they were still to be considered as less than a thousand dead.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed without an opposing voice.

The Senate of the United States having passed a resolution, to appropriate a sum to the President of the United States for information in reference to the military preparations of the British authorities on the Northern frontier of the U. S., States from Lake Superior to the Atlantic, Gen. Scott has written to the Secretary of War in reply to inquiries from the Department touching the subject of the resolution.

In reference to fortifications on the disputed territory, Gen. Scott refers to Gov. Fairchild's letters as containing fuller information than he can give from any other source; and adds, that Great Britain, besides numerous corps of well-organized militia, has at this time within her North American provinces more than 20,000 of her best regular troops, the whole of which might be brought to the verge of our territory, in a few days.—*East. Amer.*

The Colonial Press contends that the Americans are executing despicable works and making other military preparations on the disputed territory. Notwithstanding, there appears but little fear in the best informed quarters, of any serious difficulty in the adjustment of the boundary question.

The New Orleans True American says that real estate is daily selling in that city at the rate of from \$20 to \$100, for what cost some years ago \$50.

The N. O. Price Current, of the 21st ult., contains a list of ships at that port from Europe of no less than one hundred and seventeen, and coastwise thirty-four; making in all one hundred and fifty-one.

CONGRESS.—The Cumberland Road bill proposing another large appropriation for that work, was rejected in the Senate on Friday last by the following vote:

AYE—Meers, Allen, Benton, Buchanan, Davis, Fulton, Grimes, Lyon, Merick, Nicholas, Porter, Robinson, Taylor, Smith of Indiana, Stearns, Tallmadge, Tappan, Webster, White, Wright, Young—99.

NAO—Meigs, Anderson, Brown, Calhoun, Clay of Alabama, Clay of Ky., Clayton, Crittenden, Crittenden, Dixie, Harlan, Hindman, King, Lumpkin, Moore, Pierrepont, Preston, Ross, Roane, Ruggles, Smith of Conn., Southard, Strange—92.

Mr. Clay opposed the bill, not because he was unfavorable to the road, but because he was opposed to the creation of a National Debt for the construction of works of Public Improvement. The public treasury is simply bankrupt, and the felt compelled by its condition, and by a avoidance of the Government, to vote against appropriations for the road. Moreover, Mr. G. said, he thought it best to submit the whole subject to President Harrison. The friends of the road need not fear to trust it to him, and by the blessing of God, on the 4th day of March, 1841, President Harrison would become the illustrious author of the present Executive.

In the House of Representatives, on Friday last, the discussion upon the New Jersey question was brought to a close by a call for the Previous Question. The printing of the Reports of the Majority and Minority were both ordered, with very few discussions; and all the testimony received was also ordered to be printed, with additional depositions. There is but little prospect that the contested election case will be finally decided by the House.

Important from Washington.—A letter was received in this city yesterday from a distinguished member of the U. S. Senate, well known to be in the confidence of Mr. Van Buren, stating that should the views of the British Government be carried out regarding the North-Eastern Boundary Question, as expressed in Mr. Fox's letters, it would unquestionably lead to a collision between the two Governments, and the only hope was, that the British Government would not sanction the measures of the undersigned concurred with you at the last election of President in desiring the withdrawal of the original members of that high office.

It is stated that Mr. Webster made a very able speech in the Senate on the Treasury Note Bill, contrasting that it is a continuation of the borrowing system which commenced in 1837, and Mr. Benton spoke and voted against the bill for a direct loan rather than for paper as such.

A resolution was adopted in the House on Saturday, by a large vote, making the Appropriation Bill for the support of the Civil and Diplomatic expenses of the Government, the special order of the day for every day from and after the 5th instant.

THE NEW STANDING ARMY.

The proposition of the President of the United States for a standing army of two hundred thousand men, is condemned with nearly one voice. Defenders it has none. Apologize it finds of course, for what the President do or say that cannot not accuse. But the community of large, well-drilled and disciplined, professional soldiers, and endorsed by Van Buren, is received with general execration.

Referring to this subject, Col. Campbell, late Treasurer of the United States, in a speech in the people of Washington county, a few days since:

"What is the alarming situation of the people of the United States, even at this moment? In a period of profound peace, with the whole civilized world, when we see not a speck of foreign war upon the horizon?—We have a communication from the President of the United States, that the militia of this country shall be organized into a regular standing army of 100,000 men—and that another 100,000 are to be held at随时 ready to act as a reserve to take the places of the first number, when called upon at certain periods. For what purpose is this army wanted? It is intended for an armed band to surround the President, to do his bidding, to act as his body-guard, in the event of any sudden and dangerous emergency."—He concluded, that the only safety of the country resided at the elections, as the case may require. They are to be militia, and of course will have the right of suffrage. They are to be kept in active service, and of course will be under the immediate orders of the President. But this must beg of you to observe the mode in which this must be done. It is proposed to divide the United States into eight military Districts, and to organize a militia in each, consisting of a body of 12,500 men, and another of equal number, as a reserve. This would give an armed militia force of 200,000 men, so drilled and stationed as to be ready to take their places in the ranks in defense of their country, &c."

"This armed host of militia, you will observe, are to be organized into active service. They are not to be called out, but to be held in a state of constant service—of course they are to be forced into other services—unless they are to be forced into the ranks as regular soldiers. They must be placed under the rules and articles of war—they are to be kept in active service—they are to be regulars to all intent and purposes! The President says, 'he cannot too highly recommend the plan of the Secretary of War.' And the Secretary says, 'It is proposed to divide the United States into eight military Districts, and to organize a militia in each, consisting of a body of 12,500 men, and another of equal number, as a reserve. This would give an armed militia force of 200,000 men, so drilled and stationed as to be ready to take their places in the ranks in defense of their country, &c.'

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